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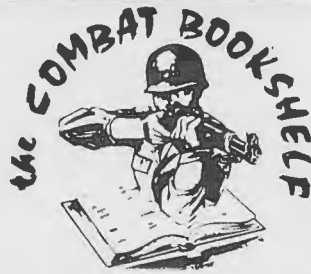
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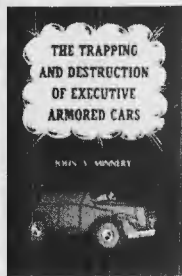
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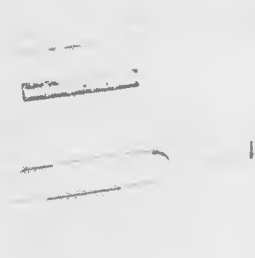
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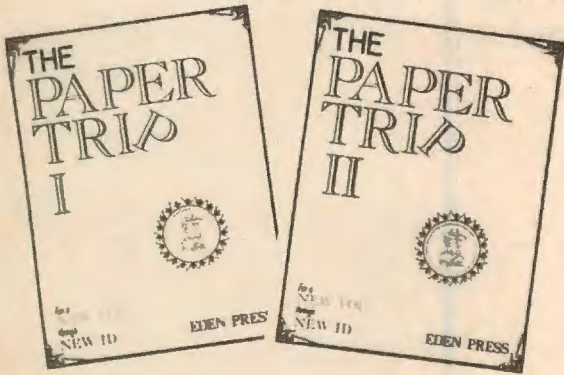


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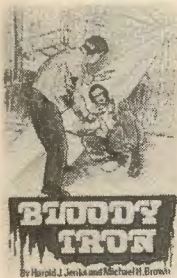
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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



COVER: "He went that-a-way!" Assault team, 2nd Battalion, 36th Airborne, Texas National Guard, receives commands from platoon leader during attack on squad-sized bunker. Wooden arrow pointing in opposite direction marks landmine.

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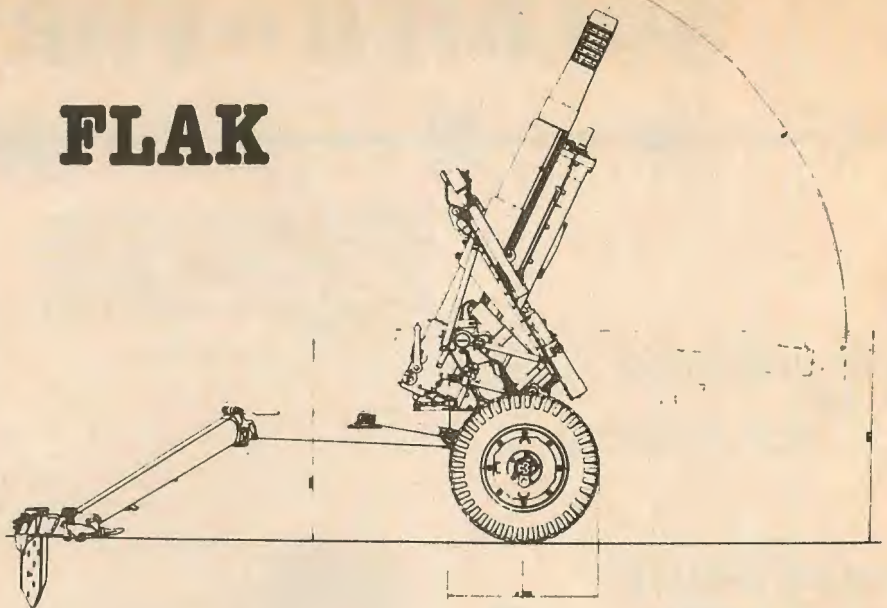
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See "Combat Modifying the MIA,"
SOF, September '78, p. 80—The Eds.

DEADLIER SEX SPEAKS OUT ...

Sirs:

Thanks very much for your article on "Women Warriors" (August '79). Too bad our military forces have been so backward in realizing the combat potential of women. We can certainly be the deadlier sex if so inclined and trained.

More power to you,
Deb Lansden
Jacksonville, Florida

TIME TO RING BATF ...

Sirs:

"BATF's War on Civil Liberties" (October '79) made me relish the fact that I am one of the "anti-government characters, intent on subverting this country's laws," mentioned therein. I wish to take the opportunity (with the help of your magazine) to do my part toward the harassment of BATF by distributing their unlisted, toll-free tracing number: 1 (800) 424-9420. It can be used to have firearm serial numbers traced if one impersonates a law "encroachment" officer suitably.

Your readers will also probably enjoy using the number to let BATF know what their opinions are.

Yours very truly,
The Tampa Bay Kid

Although we usually don't publish letters from those who give no signatures and addresses, we thought we'd pass this information on to you.—The Eds.

IDI'S DREAM FACTORY ...

Sirs:

Many thanks for printing the article on "Idi's Guest House" ("Uganda Licks Its Wounds," October '79). When this place was first reported on by *Time*, the details released were pretty heavy stuff for *Time's* ideal-reader type. A gang-rape to death of a middle-aged blonde American Peace Corps woman was a prime item of Idi's hospitality, not to mention the "heroic" murder of an old, ill Jewish lady. Were East German and/or Cuban "technical advisors" present at these charming socialist scenarios? But there have been no more articles in the Western press on this topic. My goodness, no! We wouldn't want to disturb our African "friends," would we?

When the Third World War (no pun intended) takes place, as it will, I can only regret I will be "too old" to be back in military intelligence work. May all the fairy castles of all the smiling faggots in all the state departments of the Western world crash down on their heads every time their handiwork turns over another small nation to the gentle mercies of a "people's government."

Sincerely,
Harry B. Adams
Wichita, Kansas

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Sirs:

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In the summer of 1977, I served on the Gen. H.H. Arnold (TAMG-9), a white

Continued on page 17

A distinguished four-star general speaks out:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE OUR COUNTRY FROM NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION.

General
Lewis W. Walt
USMC (Ret)

The Eleventh Hour

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The carbine is 28 inches long, has an 8½-inch barrel and weighs just seven pounds. The carbine has been adapted to use the standard FN Browning pistol magazine. The stock is wood, the body is steel-coated with baked epoxy resin and the barrel, trigger, trigger guard, sights (rear-aperture and adjustable front-post) are blued. It has a slide-cocking handle on the right and a sliding catch on the rear left-hand side of the trigger guard for a safety. The carbine uses the breech-blowback firing system.

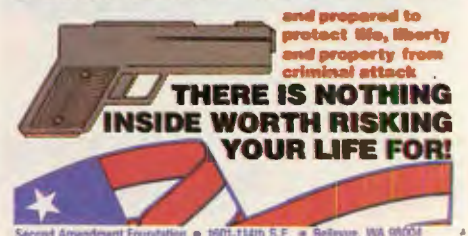
The double-row, center-feed magazines have a capacity for 13, 20 or 30 rounds and the rate of fire semi-automatic is 30 rounds in 25 seconds.

INFLATION REDUCES SOF PAGES TO 96 ...

As of March 1980 SOF has returned to a 96-page issue. In December SOF went to 112 pages and raised its price \$.25. We thought we could maintain 112 pages with that increase, the first for SOF since the first issue in July 1975, but we found after further evaluation that this was impossible.

Hopefully, increased sales will allow us to hold the line against inflation so that an additional price increase will not be required.

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ARMED AND ALIVE ...

The Second Amendment Foundation has started a new program called Armed And Alive.

SAF President Alan M. Gottlieb has four goals for the program: 1) to compile and broadcast through the media a list of real-life cases where Americans have survived criminal attack through use of a firearm; 2) to challenge legislation in the courts to help victims of crime secure their rights and to research existing laws governing self-defense; 3) to defend law-abiding gun owners caught in some legal trap for defending them-

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THE VIETNAM WAR:

An Illustrated History of the Conflict in Southeast Asia

By Bernard C. Nalty

Forward by

General William Westmoreland

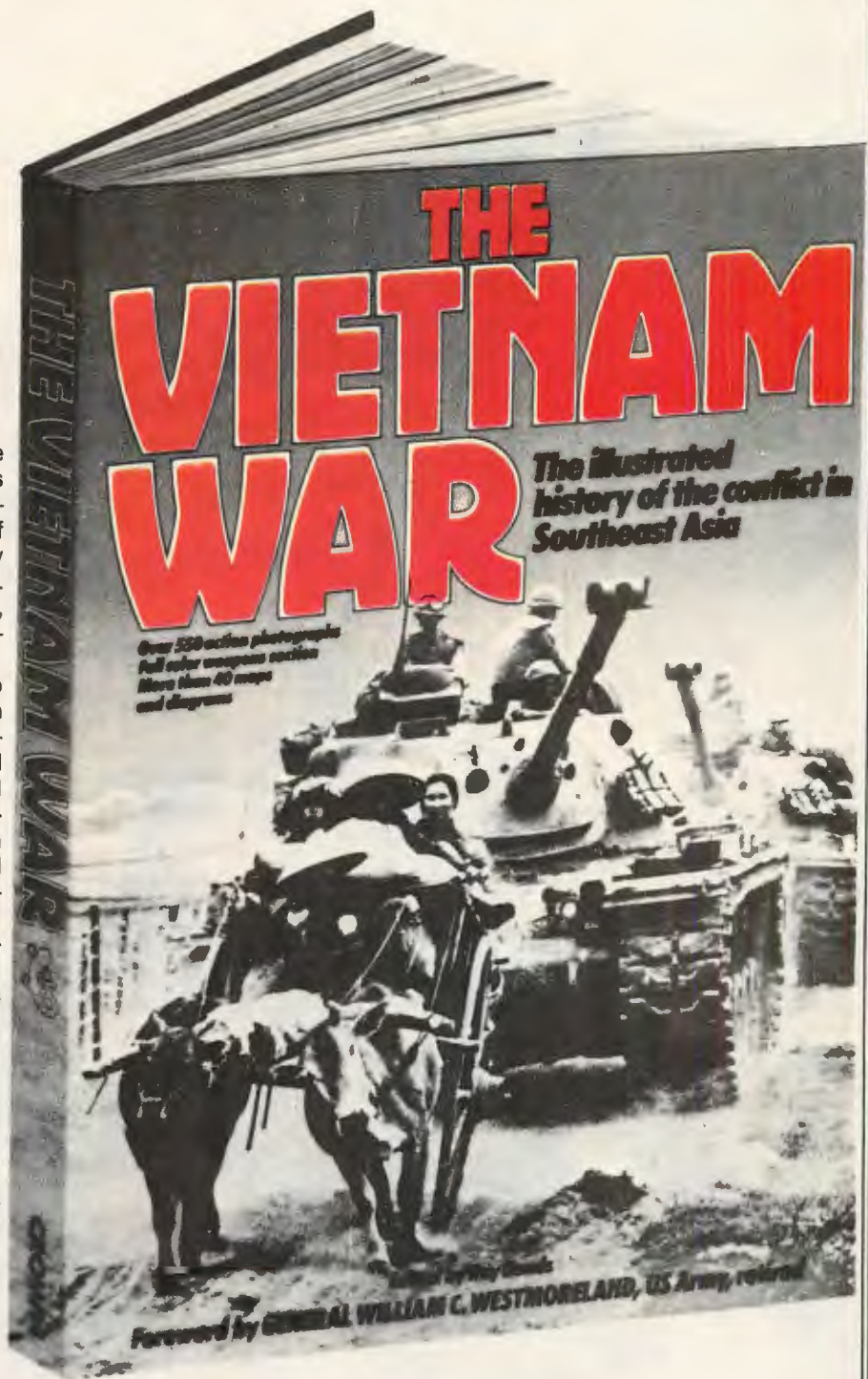
This extensive and impressive volume provides an objective analysis of the conflict in Southeast Asia. It offers a vivid battle-by-battle analysis of tactics and strategies and a directory of the military equipment employed. Dramatic, heavy-impact photographs, many never before published, document the text throughout.

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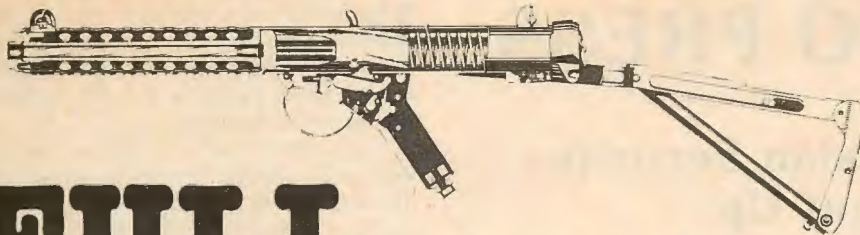
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FULL AUTO

Chuck Taylor



ONE of the gimmicks suggested for increased speed and efficiency in reloading a rifle, SMG, or AR is the method of taping two or even three magazines in end-to-end or staggered fashion. It is claimed that doing so allows the firer to quickly and more easily reload his weapon by merely inverting the fresh magazine over the spent one and inserting it into the firearm.

It is widely advertised, too, with a number of merchandising companies even going so far as to market a spring-steel "jungle clip," as it has become known, to simplify the process of attaching the magazines together.

While we have all seen this practice demonstrated in the cinema, television and at the local firing range or gun shop (it looks neat, you know), I have, over the years, noticed a conspicuous absence of it worldwide among professionals who carry shoulder arms with detachable box magazines.

Before someone cries, "Foul!" — understand I am not saying that anyone who carries his magazines in this manner is necessarily a slob, only that I have never seen or heard of it. And believe me, I have looked.

Let's examine the practice and see if it possesses any practical value. First, attaching two or three 20/30-rd. mags together immediately upsets whatever intrinsic balance the weapon may possess and seriously reduces or even eliminates its handiness as well.

Second, the protruding magazine(s), already an annoying "catch-all," for undergrowth, slings, web gear and human forearms, has instantly doubled its protrusion length, aggravating an already serious problem and creating an additional headache when using the weapon efficiently from the prone position.

Third, what about the ammunition housed in the lower magazine(s)? Unless

some sort of rubber or plastic cap is used to prevent it, dirt, mud, sand, or other foreign matter will quickly enter the magazine, causing corrosion to form on both the ammo and interior surfaces of the magazine itself. And, of course, we all know what will happen to the rubber or plastic caps, don't we?

Fourth, we address the matter of how to carry magazines altered via the method in question. Most military organizations have standardized magazine pouches to fit the magazines of the particular weapons in use by the military entity concerned. Almost all of the examples with which I have worked are satisfactory for their intended purpose. When the individual begins horsing around with his equipment unnecessarily which, in this case he must do to accommodate magazines attached together, loss of continuity, weapon efficiency, and acceptable logistic status can and usually does become seriously apparent within a short period of time. In any event, what possible combinations might be created to solve the problem are best left up to the imagination of the individual, but, regardless of what solution one arrives at, additional or non-standard equipment must be used. This is an untenable state of affairs for obvious reasons.

The question, "Is it really faster and easier," now enters the discussion. Who knows? I have been unable to determine that it is because my experiments have shown that, for my purposes at least, attached magazines are more awkward to handle and twice as heavy as single. The way I see it, this translates into being twice the original problem, but in all fairness, I also point out that anyone who desires to do so, can, with proper motivation, time and coaching, accomplish anything he wishes. The question thus becomes: "Is it worth the effort?"

I don't think so. Why? Because, in my opinion, spending considerable time and energy on an idea that, at best, leaves one where he started, is not justifiable.

I also opine that the potential contamination of ammo and possible damage to magazines, as well as increased weight, awkwardness and general difficulty of handling more than negates any increase in reloading speed, which I am convinced would be minimal if evident at all. Further, I submit that the reason the practice of attaching magazines together is virtually nonexistent among professionals is that they have discovered the preceding on their own and adhere to the old axiom, "keep it simple, stupid," for a reason.

The reason? It works.



Ready for anything? Maybe not. You may have the finest weapons in the world with heaps of ammo for each. You may have freeze dried food, medical supplies and a retreat secure from howling mobs. You may have Krugerrands, solar power and more tools than a Panzer Division.

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Zimbabwe-Rhodesian Security Employment Up

by SOF Staff

DESPITE the British-arranged and monitored cease-fire in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, job prospects there remain good, particularly with the Anglo-American Corporation.

Anglo-American, the largest private firm in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia and among the largest in all southern Africa, is looking for seasoned professionals.

The ideal candidate is a former noncom or junior officer who has combat experience in the infantry or armored.

Applicants should thoroughly familiarize themselves with both the NATO and Warsaw Pact families of weapons. It is also a good idea to bring a personal sidearm and/or an AR 15 if that is one's preferred weapon and caliber.

Anglo-American has a variety of job openings including the command of five-man reaction sticks that respond to alarms at farms, ranches, mines, etc. There are also openings in security forces that guard logging convoys and as ranch security guards, protecting against cattle rustlers.

The firm is not interested in racists — those hired will be responsible for training and working with the indigenous personnel, members of either the Mashona or Matabele tribes.

The contact in Salisbury is Mr. B.A.D. (Tony) Gray, Director of Security, Anglo-American Corp., P.O. Box 1108, Salisbury, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

Applicants should send him a brief — but complete — no-nonsense resume.

Pay is about \$750 U.S. a month with room and board included.

Gray, interviewed recently by SOF, stresses that the work is dangerous and he is interested in only cool, level-headed types who don't panic.

And Gray stressed that he is not interested in flaky types — like one who recently strode into his office clad in a zebra skin and wearing an American indian war bonnet. "Said something about being an indian chief and claimed he had killed, skinned out and tanned the hide he was wearing to prove how good he was in the bush," Gray laughed.

Gray has a final tip for applicants: Get hold of some literature and maps of ZR and study them thoroughly. "Too many chaps who have potential come over here uninformed or misinformed. A little homework can result in an applicant being chosen over someone who is ignorant," he said.

There is also day-to-day work in something called "brightlighting." This is handled through the Rhodesian Farmers Union and it involves "farm sitting," just spending a day on guard at a farm or ranch while the owner is away.

Pay for this work ranges from \$15 to \$25 Rhodesian a day, plus room and board. This sort of day-to-day work is

Continued on page 37

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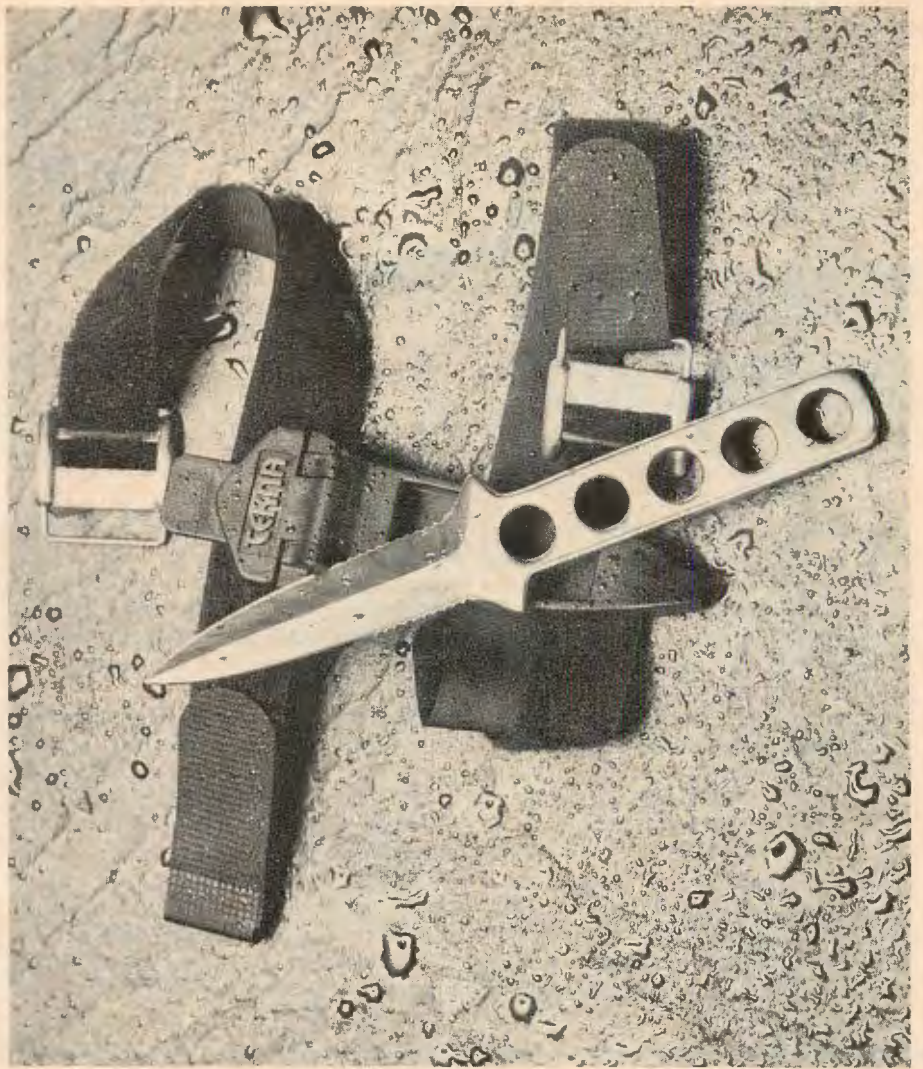
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TERRAIN & SITUATION

Jerry Ahern



is a formidable-appearing blade and much more serious if a situation comes to a fight. Crafted in Germany for A.G. Russell, all three of these stainless knives make a fine investment for a knife collection or for personal defense. Double-edged spear-points, they are not really designed for outdoor use, though Russell confides several Sting users have written that their knives see duty for everything from hunting and fishing chores to use as a sailor's knife. For more information on all three Sting models write AG. Russell at Dept. SOF, 1705 Highway 71 North, Springdale, AR 72764, U.S.A.

AG. Russell, the man who brought us the Sting, a sleeve-knife-sized hideout blade of superlative quality, has done it again with two variations on the original Sting. One is a modification of the original knife featuring an all-steel handle — the knife is all one unit. The second variation is a king-size model.

This latter, called the Sting II, embodies the term "good, stout knife." Of the same design as the smaller Sting I and identical in looks, the new Sting II features a blade running 3-7/8 inches long, as compared to 3-3/8 inches for the original model. The handle is 4-3/8 inches long, the original Sting's 3 1/4 inches. Weight of the Sting II is four ounces, compared to three ounces for the original.

Like the current sheath for the Sting I, the Sting II has a ruggedly-built, tight-fitting, black water-buffalo-hide holster with polished-nickel spring-steel belt clip, allowing the new knife to be carried inside or outside the trousers or in a boot top or pocket.

The Sting IA, stainless steel like the other Sting models, is designed for the person who wants a knife that is literally all one-piece. Handle area indentations provide a positive gripping surface for this attractive utilitarian-looking knife. Identical in size to the original Sting I, weight of the all-steel IA is 3 1/2 ounces. The sheaths for the I and IA are identical.

The Sting I or IA would be hard to improve for concealment, while the Sting II

ALESSI custom concealment holsters have been written about before in T&S, their inside-the-pants holster being this writer's top choice for carrying the Walther PPK/S. Aside from a well-made, functional ankle rig, Alessi also produces what is probably the most practical hideout shoulder rig currently available — and one of the safest.

The Alessi shoulder holster has been mentioned here before, but in connection with small-framed revolver carry. Lately, I've been using an Alessi rig with the excellent little Detonics .45, and both items together make for a most potent concealment package.

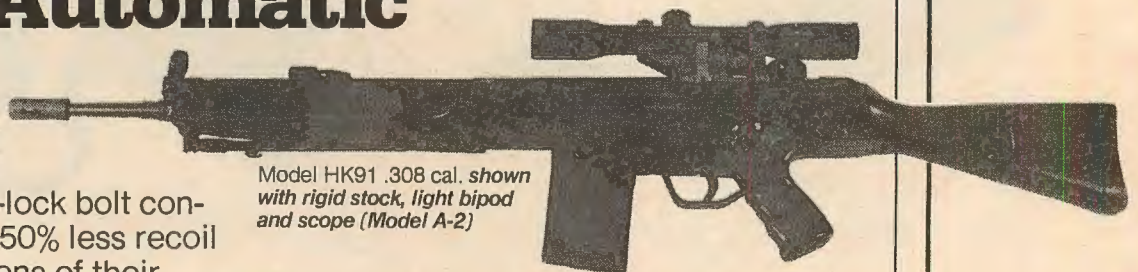
Continued on page 90

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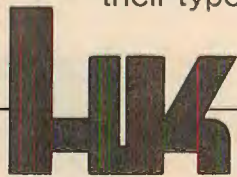
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Model HK91 .308 cal. shown with rigid stock, light bipod and scope (Model A-2)



Model HK93 .223 cal. shown with retractable stock (Model A-3)



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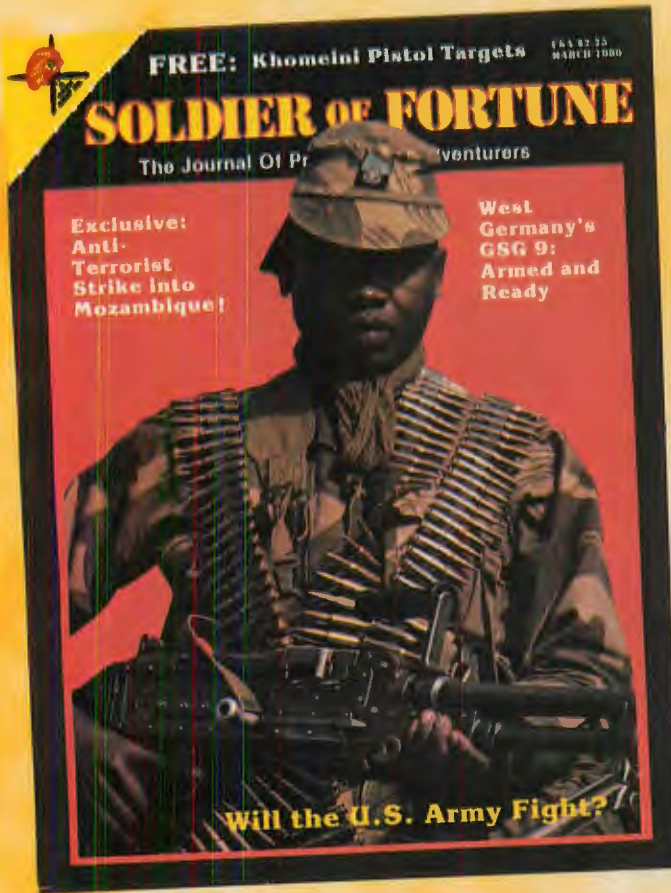
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FLAK



Continued from page 6

ship under U.S. Navy, Military Sealift Command Pacific (USN-MSC-Pac). The ship was funded and sponsored by CIA and NASA. For three months we cruised 15 nautical miles off the USSR unarmed in the Bering Sea. I know the Army SF, Rangers, SEALs and Marine Force Recon have not been there. We were!

Acta non verba,
Alfred Vasquez
Texas City, Texas

REQUESTS REAL RIFLE ...

Sirs:

As you probably know, there are at least eight different bills now circulating in Congress to reinstate the draft. As a 15-year-old high school sophomore, I will be draftable come summer 1982. And while I cannot speak for all those who are in my age group, I can say on my own behalf that a number of my friends, if asked, will serve, and if need be, fight for our country.

But just as you cannot stop communist tanks with rocks — as the poor, oppressed Czechs found out — you cannot stop communists with M-16s. To put it bluntly, we are disturbed by the thought of actually having to go to war armed with that glorified .22 calib. "thing" that the Army has the gall to call an assault rifle. In short, the M-16 has got to go, 'cause, man, it's our hide that's on the line, and we want to come home with our shield — not on it.

Respectfully,
Andrew A. Weisburd
Red Bank, New Jersey

UNICEF FUNDS QUERIED ...

Sirs:

Recently in the local newspaper I noticed an article discussing the use of UNICEF funds for the purchase of combat first-aid pouches for ZIPRA terrorists infiltrating into Rhodesia. This may be old news to you but I was not aware of it. We should look into fund-raising activities such as the UN "Children of the World" Christmas cards before supporting them. I personally think the UN has done as much for world peace as the AK-47.

Thanks,
J.W.
Amarillo, Texas

Nothing the UN does would surprise us.
A friend of ours recently described that

Continued on page 70

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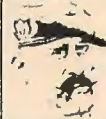
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Continued from page 8

selves against violent criminal attack; and 4) to put at the fingertips of gun owners the practical, legal and moral guidelines for the use of a firearm for self-defense.

As part of the program the SAF urges gun owners to buy (\$.25 for 1, \$1 for 5 and \$3 for 20) the Armed And Alive window sticker on page 8.

In addition, the SAF is offering for \$.75 a monograph titled *Armed And Alive*, by Massad F. Ayoob. Persons interested in the monograph or sticker should write: Second Amendment Foundation, 1601-114th SE, Suite 157, Bellevue, WA 98004.

SKI TROOPERS PLAN REUNION ...

The fifth reunion of the 10th Mountain Division will be held June 25-30 in Lake Placid, N.Y. Anyone who was assigned or attached to any 10th Division unit can get in touch with the organization by contacting Gerald Q. Nash at 5 Fox Avenue, Keene, NH 03431.

VIETS FIRE INTO THAILAND ...

Vietnamese troops, shooting at Cambodian guerrillas, fired 13 mortar rounds into Thailand in November 1979. There were no casualties in that incident but the previous day 40 Thai fishing vessels were reportedly attacked in the Gulf of Thailand. The Vietnamese patrol boats used machine guns to chase three of the boats into Vietnamese waters, where they were seized.

NEW ARMS REQUESTED BY BANGKOK ...

Shipments of supplies to Thailand have been accelerated at the request of the government in Bangkok.

The Thais, who asked the U.S. to pull out its 27,000 troops stationed in Thailand in 1975, are moving to strengthen border defenses against a possible threat from Vietnamese troops in Cambodia.

"They feel, in terms of the current problem that they need more military strength," said Defense Department spokesman Thomas B. Ross.

The Thais purchased \$400 million in U.S. military hardware in fiscal year 1979, more than all of their total purchases in the previous 23 years.

Since July the weapons that have gone in include 15 M48 tanks, TOW and Dragon anti-tank missiles, tank-destroying mines, armored troop carriers, mortars, machine guns, M16 rifles and ammunition.

Continued on page 77

WORLD AT WAR!

Will the next 4 years bring a MAJOR depression ... and war ... to America?

by Roy S. Watne
Freelance Reporter

"A MAJOR DEPRESSION, CIVIL turmoil, a dictatorship and gun confiscation may be ahead for America," now warns International Consultant and Survival Expert Hans J. Schneider. Far fetched? NOT AT ALL!

Hans spent his childhood in the Third Reich . . . his boyhood in the rubble of communist-occupied East Germany. His father, a former industrialist, lost \$10 million overnight and was imprisoned. This was a time when thousands of a disarmed populace were ruthlessly murdered. Hans and his family had to search the forests for food in order to survive.

BAD TIMES AHEAD

Don't ignore his warning. Hans J. Schneider is internationally respected for his rather accurate political and economic forecasts.

After twenty years of research, he has reached this conclusion: "America will go through a major depression within the next four years." He foresees big cities as centers of bloodshed, food shortages, and massive unemployment. People unable to cope with these conditions, will demand a dictatorial government to restore order, just like they did in his own homeland, Germany. The result? A MAJOR WORLD WAR.

Hans Schneider adds: "Even if all these events don't happen, any one of them could spell disaster to unprepared Americans, physically and financially."

"TIMELY HELP"

Mr. Schneider has written a book which I believe every concerned American should read. **TIMELY AND PROFITABLE HELP FOR TROUBLED AMERICANS** reveals his proven plan for your freedom and survival during economic and social turmoil.

There is hope and help! Mr. Schneider is NOT a prophet of doom. In his book, Hans has outlined what he has done . . . and what you can do to prepare for—even profit from—these times. 288 pages cover:

- ✓ Finding the right place to live in the turbulent times ahead
- ✓ How to educate your children at home! legally!
- ✓ What essential provisions to store
- ✓ Simple inflation / depression-proof

- ✓ Investments with a 30-100% yearly increase
- ✓ Jobs least vulnerable to unemployment
- ✓ Wilderness survival . . . Yachting for survival!
- ✓ Survival hunting, unusual remedies, first aid
- ✓ Independent energy sources
- ✓ Becoming self-sufficient
- ✓ Barter items
- ✓ . . . and much, MUCH more.

Mr. Schneider is not a theorist, but actually "practices what he preaches," as one newspaper reporter put it. Hans, his lovely wife, and their five children live in unspoiled wilderness next to a spring-fed stream, teeming with trout. They produce most of their own food and enjoy a wonderful family life. Is this your dream? His book shows how you can do it too!

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

- * "... sincere and engaging . . ."—Art Seidenbaum of *Los Angeles Times*
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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT



Jeff Cooper & Ken Hackathorn

SOF's Combat Pistolcraft column welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a question or contribution, send it to Jeff Cooper, care of Soldier of Fortune Magazine, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. For a quick, personal reply, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Q. I am considering buying a 9mm automatic pistol. Due to the fact that I have a small hand, I am uncomfortable with large pistols in .45 caliber. I made expert in the Army with the .45 but the size was a problem.

What is your evaluation of the H&K VP70Z, the Beretta 92 and 84P in .380? I have a number of guns but no double-action in 9mm. The H&K P9S in .45 D/A looks good but I don't know about size of grip and recoil.

M.Z.
 Nantucket, Massachusetts

A. *Small hands are a difficult problem in pistolcraft. Most serviceable weapons are somewhat too large for a person with a hand which is conspicuously undersized, and this goes for both the nines and the major calibers.*

The H&K VP70 is a specialist weapon which would certainly not suit a small hand. Also, its three-shot burst capacity makes it an automatic weapon in the eyes of the law and would involve you in a great deal of difficulty if you wished to purchase it as a non-commercial operator.

The Beretta 91 is a serviceable weapon but again somewhat large for your hand. The Beretta 380 is possibly more suitable to your hand but I do not suggest any weapon in this caliber for serious defensive use. The H&K P9 is even more of a problem for a small hand than the others you have mentioned, its double-action stroke being particularly long.

Before you give up on the large caliber, you should at least handle a Star PD. This might not be considered a heavy-duty gun, but it should do for your purposes and might just match your hand size.

Q. Is there any really safe way of carrying a double-action revolver with no safety? I have a S&W Airweight which

is exactly what I need for protection of my property — a jewelry shop. It's quick and loud, but fairly dangerous because the hammer is exposed. I guess what I need is a holster with a strap to hold the hammer down.

Also, I'm left-handed and do a bit of prospecting in rattler country (eastern Oregon) — want to grab a handful without losing a toe!

K.A.
 Portland, Oregon

A. *There is no problem in carrying any modern double-action revolver in a safe condition without a safety. The weapon is safe as holstered with its hammer down and positive block between the firing pin and primer. You need no "strap to hold the hammer down." It's not going to cock itself without your help.*

Q. I'm looking for a .45 auto to use as a service arm and carry off-duty as well. Which do you recommend for a left-hander? How would you set it up?

I believe you have said you favor the lightweight Commander. What sights would you put on to replace the fixed ones? What would you recommend for the trigger and barrel assembly to help accuracy? How about left-hand safety magazine release and such, i.e., what is necessary to set the gun up properly?

Finally, I'd appreciate any information on Ray Chapman's school in Columbia, Mo.

M.C.S.
 St. Libory, Illinois

A. *As you probably know, the Colt series of heavy automatic pistols can easily be fitted with a left-hand or two-sided safety. Since you are left-handed that is your obvious course.*

High visibility sights are almost a necessity on the pistols as issued but they need not necessarily be adjustable — just large enough so that you can see them quickly.

Ordinarily, the pistols do not need accurizing as they come out of the box. The magazine release as issued is somewhat

easier for a left-hander to use than for a right-hander. Leave it alone.

Though I have not visited Ray Chapman's establishment in Columbia since he set it up, I have heard many good things about it. Ray is a fine shot and a good teacher and I am sure that time spent in his school would be valuable to you.

Q Concerning your August 1979 column, I am shocked that you would tell anyone not to buy a 9mm hand gun.

Please don't tell anyone that a 9mm round is not good in a fire fight. I have seen this world's most-used military round destroy a man with its destructive power. It also penetrated through autos, etc., and found its target when others didn't. How can you say, in essence, that "anything else" would be better?

I can't argue with your choice of 9mm weapons, although I wouldn't necessarily pick them in that order. The 9mm packs a lot more of a wallop at close quarters than the illustrious .223. I know because I ran many tests for Colt's at Hartford and in the military R&D department. Many police officers carry 9mm autos and the round has served them well.

R.E.S.

West Bridgewater, Massachusetts



Gerry Bunch's custom .45 grips complement Jim Hoag-modified Colt.

A I am naturally distressed to hear that my opinions shock you, but if you were to come to school here at Gun-site and attend our classes upon the effect of weapons, you would be considerably more shocked than you now are. The 9mm parabellum cartridge is a distinctly unsatisfactory man-stopper and has never been able to find its way out of the bushes in this department. Certainly it will kill, as will a hunting knife, a knitting needle, or a piece of piano wire, but it is by no means to be depended upon to cause your adversary to cease and desist immediately — which is what a pistol is for.

The probability that a parabellum will put a man down with one round is on the order of 50 percent. That does not satisfy me. The Germans, in searching for improvement, have come up with some radi-

cal new ammunition in parabellum, but as we know, one cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

—Jeff Cooper

This month Ken Hackathorn discusses custom grips for combat guns. He prefers Gerry Bunch's grips, shown in the photograph on his custom-modified Colt .45.

OCCASIONALLY one runs across a gun accessory so nice that he must have it. A fancy pair of custom grips for my .45 auto is not really necessary. But while attending the IPSC U.S. Nationals in Park City, Utah, I noticed a number of competitors sporting some very nice-looking custom stocks on their 1911 autos. They looked a great deal like the old Sanderson grips used by Jeff Cooper in the early days that were pictured in Cooper's early edition of *Fighting Handguns*.

Since those days, most everyone has been satisfied with the regulation-style checkered-walnut hardball grips for practical use. Pachmayr Signature grips have been the only ones on the market to upset the popularity of standard-style grips. Colt has wisely gone back to checkered-walnut regulation stocks for all their current autos.

But, ever since my youthful reading of *Fighting Handguns*, I have wanted to own a pair of these exotic grips. Herretts' pair of Combat Camp Perry grips are close but still wrong. Milt Sparks gave me the address of the man who made those grips I admired so much at the U.S. Nationals. I contacted Gerry Bunch, 510 N.W. 10th St., Hermiston, OR 97838, sending a wad of money and a tracing of my right hand. I requested extra-fine-grain walnut and checkering, at extra cost.

When the grips arrived, I was pleasantly surprised to find them nicer than hoped for. Bunch had completely covered the stocks with a rich skip-line checkering. Those grips were just too fancy for a plain-jane .45 auto. I dug out my prize Jim-Hoag-custom-combat .45 Colt auto and installed the fancy new Bunch grips. The final product reflects real quality, and

gun and grips both complement one another.

Considering the cost of most custom work on one's favorite blaster by any well-known pistolsmith, half a hundred is just a ripple for the cost of custom grips. Although these grips aren't for everyone, if one desires quality and craftsmanship, they have them.

Gerry Bunch offers a variety of woods and grains. Prices for plain custom grips start at \$45. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for further details. If one wants to dress up his custom .45 with a pair of fancy grips that serve a useful role, Gerry Bunch has just what the doctor ordered.



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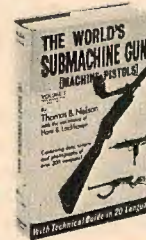
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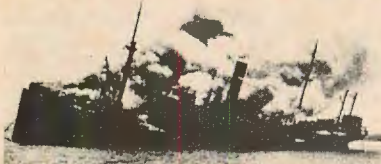
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BOARDING PARTY

THE LAST ACTION OF THE CALCUTTA LIGHT HORSE



JAMES LEASOR
WITH A FOREWORD BY
ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET
THE EARL MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA

BOARDING PARTY: The Last Action of the Calcutta Light Horse. By James Leasor. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. \$8.95. Review by Edward Brown.

IT'S the fall of 1942 and the Japanese have just finished wrapping up most of what they want in south Asia. The British, almost drained dry by three years of war with the Germans, are bracing themselves to face this new adversary.

But it's the Germans who are giving them the most trouble in the Indian Ocean. Somehow, and from somewhere, detailed intelligence is going out to a pack of U-boats operating in the area, enabling them to home in with uncanny precision on allied shipping.

British SOE (intelligence) in a quandary over the sinkings, finally determines that word is being passed to the subs from one or more of three German merchant ships interned in the neutral harbor of Portuguese Goa, south of Bombay. SOE theorizes an intelligence net has been set up by the Germans as part of an elaborate "stay-behind" scheme in which they were willing to sacrifice some vessels for the war's duration with the bonus tradeoff of a functioning espionage network right under British noses in India.

But Portugal is officially a neutral country in World War II. Moreover, as a non-belligerent, Portuguese good will is essential to the allies to allow them to continue to use the Azores for refueling stops on cross-Atlantic flights. A bombing mission or a commando-style raid to silence the German ship radios in Goa harbor is out of the question. It was a problem that had to be solved and the British went about solving it in their own inimitable fashion.

Boarding Party, a true account of the solution which reads like the most bizarre fiction, actually happened.

After the kidnapping of a suspected German intelligence operative in Goa failed to stop the U-boat attacks, SOE decid-

IN REVIEW

ed to broach the proposal to a very unusual outfit called the Calcutta Light Horse, and despite the government's insistence there would be "no medals, perhaps not even any pensions for those killed — and certainly no pay," the Light Horse volunteered for the mission immediately.

As SOE saw it, members of the troop could visit Goa on a business or holiday pretext, make their move against the ships, particularly the *Ehrenfels*, considered the actual espionage vessel, and get out. If the raid miscarried and they were caught, the whole thing could be passed off as a madcap drunken prank — with official British disclaimers of any foreknowledge of the attempt, of course.

Eighteen Light Horse volunteers took a quick course in small-arms handling — pistols, Stens, and Thompsons — and demolitions, then boarded an ancient 120-foot hopper barge, the *Phoebe*, for the roundabout sea voyage from Calcutta to Marmagao.

Along the way, the target and the details of the strike were explained to the Light Horse raiding party: the force would board the *Ehrenfels* in five parties, each with a special job — from laying plastic explosives to handcuffing crew members. The raid's code name was "Operation Creek," and as the commander, Colonel Bill Grice, said, "If anything goes wrong, we'll be up that creek — without a paddle."

In Calcutta, 1,400 miles to the northeast, the remaining members of the Calcutta Light Horse — those too old to answer the call to the colors — fretted in their clubhouse, sore as hell to be left out of the action and itching somehow to do their bit.

The Calcutta Light Horse was a part-time unit of informal cavalry, the offspring of a scratch formation of merchants and businessmen raised by Britain's Lord Clive in 1759 to ward off an attack on Calcutta by the Dutch.

In the intervening 183 years, the Calcutta Light Horse had evolved into a social club with minor military pretensions: horse racing, fox hunting (with jackals in lieu of foxes the quarry) and occasional parades through town to celebrate famous British victories.

But with the younger members of the Light Horse scattered to the ends of Empire fighting for crown and country, the

races, hunts and balls were a thing of the past, and the Calcutta Light Horse seemed an anachronism, badly out of date in the desperate struggle which was World War II.

But thanks to a wide awake SOE officer with more than his share of imagination — and the guts, devotion, and courage of a couple of handfuls of overage members of the Light Horse rejected as being too far over the hill for active service — the Calcutta Light Horse launched a completely unofficial and unsanctioned, but murderously effective, raid on the Goa harbor to sink the German spy ships.

James Leasor, author of *Green Beach*, and *Singapore: The Battle That Changed the World*, tells the story of this "last action of the Calcutta Light Horse" in **Boarding Party**.

On the moonless night of March 9, 1943, the Light Horse volunteers, faces blackened and carrying Stens, sidearms and plastique, went in.

Before the sun was up, not only was the *Ehrenfels* ablaze, but so were two other German merchantmen, and an Italian ship as well, and the work of the Light Horse this day put an end to the intelligence net so carefully set up by the Germans — there were no more radio transmissions to U-boats on the prowl in the Indian Ocean.

There were minor casualties among the force, and within a couple of days strike force members were back at their jobs in Calcutta, their only problem being to keep the operation a secret. The traditional British stiff upper lip was well buttoned up and word of the Light Horse "cutting-out expedition" did not leak out until well after the war, just before they were disbanded by their honorary colonel, Lord Mountbatten, on the eve of Indian independence. The last action of the Calcutta Light Horse — and indeed the only action in a space of time which could be measured in whole generations — was a gallant one.

Edward Brown is a free-lance journalist who specializes in outdoor topics (see "Home Drying Journey Food: For Mercs and SOFs on the Road and in the Bush," SOF, January '78). As he told us, "I bought Boarding Party at my local bookseller's, and once I read it knew SOF readers ought to hear about it." We agreed.



It Happened To Me

by Hyman "Hank" Bergman
as told to M.L. Jones

Hyman (Hank) Bergman, a World War II veteran, joined the Army in March 1943. On 15 April 1945 his unit was ordered to attack German positions in a valley near Furcoli, Italy. As he tells it:

COMPANY "B" was caught halfway across the open valley. A series of shells exploded in a flaming inferno. Near me two soldiers turned complete somersaults, blood vessels collapsing from concussion. Another soldier stared down at his right arm and saw only a shredded mass of red meat tendrils hanging above the elbow. A five-pound piece of jagged shrapnel had sheared off part of his arm. The crown of another soldier's head was ripped back like a peeled orange, exposing a bubbling mass of red shattered nerves. Our sergeant took a thin one-inch sliver of steel in the heart and died before he hit the ground.

Our attack faltered. A volley of machine-gun fire, coming from a cave that overlooked the valley, scattered more soldiers in the dirt. Others turned and began running in terror. More followed them. Our captain tried desperately to halt the chaotic flight. Machine-gun fire silenced him.

I turned and saw the company scattering for cover in all directions. Less than 15 feet away lay a man with half his head blown away by machine-gun bullets. He had been my friend.

I yelled and ran, under heavy fire, toward the cave. I crawled on my stomach toward the German machine-gun nest, ignoring the steel rain of exploding stick grenades pouring about me. I lurched to my feet.

My eyes rolled crazily in their sockets and I held my M-1 rifle. The Waffen SS MG-34 machine-gun crew stared in horror when I stood inches from their faces. My bullets caught five of them. Four ran away, blood spilling from their wounds. The fifth, a sergeant wearing an Iron Cross, moved for his MP-40 machine gun, but my last three bullets reached him first. He pitched forward on his face — dead.

I raised my hand in silent salute to my enemies' valor. For my own valor I was awarded the Silver Star and promoted from private to sergeant.



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I Was There

by John K. Swan
as told to M.L. Jones

John K. Swan, for 21 years a police officer, became chief of police of the Lynchburg, Va., Police Department six years ago. He joined the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department in 1958. On 20 December 1973 when, as he says, "most people in Kansas City were thinking about last-minute preparations for the Christmas holiday," he was a police captain and night commander of the department's tactical unit.

Swan remembers that night's events well. They started at the home of Billy Gene Roscher, whose attempted reconciliation with his estranged wife ended with the police being called. Two officers responded to find the armed husband holding his wife and two sons in the house and threatening to kill any cop who entered.

After more police arrived, Roscher allowed his wife and children to leave, but he refused to come out, shouting, "I won't come out to be put in a cage!"

Sgt. Peter Nenno lobbed several tear gas canisters into the living room. Roscher replied with his .357 revolver five or six times. One shot struck Nenno in the mouth, shattering his jawbone. At this point the tactical unit was called and Swan and his men arrived on the scene. As he tells it:

ABOUT 25 tactical unit officers, wearing dark coveralls and heavy body armor, responded to a nearby assembly area. Here orders were given, adjoining houses evacuated and Roscher's house surrounded. Capt. William "Bill" Ponessa attempted to reason with Roscher. Roscher answered with a hail of gunfire.

All hell broke loose then. Tac officers returned fire with 12-gauge shotguns, service revolvers and AR-15 rifles, temporarily silencing Roscher's return fire.

Capt. Ponessa and I decided to use gas to drive the bastard out. Enough CS gas was deployed to incapacitate a company, but Roscher continued to fire, since he was free to move from room to room in the two-story structure, gulping fresh air from numerous open and broken windows.

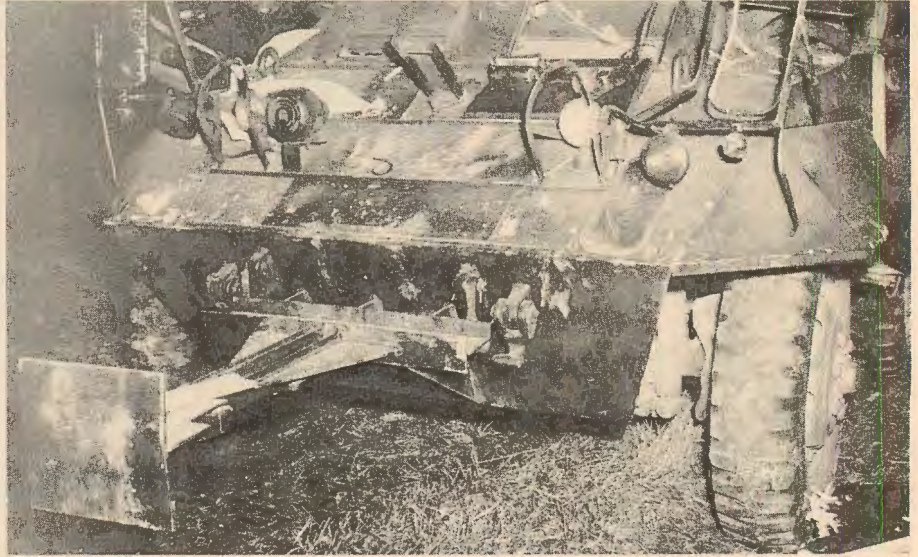
Roscher fired once more: a scream of pain from Tac Officer Timothy Needham, hit in the right arm. The department's ar-

mored car evacuated him. Roscher was like a will-of-the-wisp. Upstairs, downstairs, to the front of the house, the side, firing in all directions.

Capt. Ponessa said, "We've got to isolate Billy Boy — drive him into a corner and keep him there."

We lowered the battering ram on the armored car. It charged the front of the house, smashing into it again and again. On the fifth blow the wall collapsed and Roscher was forced to flee upstairs.

I led the assault with eight other Tac officers. We could hear him moving about in the bedroom directly above us. We raked the ceiling with AR-15 fire. He was hit!



Kansas City (Mo.) unit PD tactical unit armored vehicle with battering ram lowered for attack on gunman's house. After it knocked down one wall, officers moved in, AR-15s at the ready.



Gunman's house, showing effectiveness of tactical unit's battering ram.

IF you have a combat or adventure story for "It Happened to Me" or "I Was There," triple-space type it and send it to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, Att: M.L. Jones. All stories should be 500 words or less. Upon publication, SOF will become owner of all publication rights. Submitted articles are subject to editing

and revision, although their content and theme will not be changed. Photos are also helpful. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope so we can notify you of acceptance or return of your story. Article payment is \$50, upon publication. All entrants will receive an SOF patch.

THE HELPLESS GIANT

by Robert Nielsen



SOF thanks the *Denver Post* and artist Mike Keefe for reprint permission.

THE United States is acting all too convincingly the role of a helpless giant, unable to defend either its own or its friends' interests.

It has moved, in just 17 years, from confident use of power to fearful immobility.

In 1962 President Kennedy threw a naval blockade around Cuba and demanded removal of Soviet missiles installed there. It was risky, but the strategic nuclear balance favored the Americans, and the Russians duly backed down and took their missiles home.

In 1979 the Carter administration challenged the presence of a Soviet combat brigade in Cuba. But the president wouldn't venture either military or economic pressure and finally retreated under cover of harrumphings about stepped-up naval patrols and surveillance in the Caribbean.

The confidence of power had passed entirely to the Soviet side, which bluntly refused to withdraw its troops and didn't even offer any language the U.S. could use to save face.

If the issue was overblown, as some observers said, that doesn't make the outcome any less revealing of American weakness. And it is surely significant, symbolically and perhaps practically too, that the Soviet Union can with impunity station soldiers in the Western Hemisphere. The Monroe Doctrine is not only dead but buried, and its grave trampled by Red Army boots.

The issue was inflated only by contrast with what

the U.S. had supinely tolerated for four years: Cuba's military interventions, financed by the Soviet Union, in several African states.

That the U.S. lets Fidel Castro get away with it — while itself denying military aid to anti-communist elements in black Africa — is, at first glance, amazing. A superpower can, by definition, restrain any small neighbor from military adventures it disapproves of. Cuba is economically dependent on the Soviet Union, which in turn depends heavily on imports of American grain and technology to keep it going; it buys the first at market prices and the second on very easy credit terms.

Thus Washington has hefty economic leverage on Castro's head office, the Kremlin. The reason this leverage is not applied underlines the internal political weakness of the U.S.: farmers and businessmen would raise a clamor if their sales to Russia were threatened, and the government apparently fears to override them in the national interest.

IN this and in other ways that affect foreign policy, the U.S. is self-stricken, a Gulliver tied down by Lilliputians at home. The process didn't start with Jimmy Carter, but he has brought it near to completion. His perceptions are so confused that he mistakes foes for friends and *vice versa*.

In Vienna last summer, after giving Leonid Brezhnev sculptured peace doves and kisses on both cheeks, Carter pronounced him a friend. A

ludicrous performance, though undoubtedly sincere. These were rewards to the Soviet Union for having used loopholes in the Salt I treaty to overtake the U.S. in nuclear weaponry; for doing its effective worst to sabotage Carter's peace efforts in the Middle East; for installing a puppet regime in Afghanistan against popular resistance; for constantly slandering the U.S. in its home media and foreign-language broadcasts; and for acting against American interests wherever feasible.

Meanwhile the U.S. stiffarms a prospective and deserving friend, the new biracial, black majority government of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, elected last May in one of the freest and fairest elections ever held in Africa. In effect, American policy there sides with the Russian- and Cuban-backed guerrillas of the Patriotic Front, an outfit that stands for more civil war, bloody revolution and a Soviet-line dictatorship afterward.

In some cases, foreign policy blunders may be excusable on the ground that the U.S. government doesn't know what's really going on and lacks the means to find out. After a decade of investigations and exposures, the Central Intelligence Agency is in tatters.

"Everyone is aware that, as the Shah of Iran was falling, a score of highly paid CIA analysts were writing that Iran was not in a revolutionary situation or even in a pre-revolutionary situation..."

That comment on the current condition of U.S. intelligence is from a paper by Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. As for counter-intelligence, it's said to be incapable of even keeping tabs on KGB agents in Washington itself.

Instead of trying to help the Shah stay in power, the Carter administration quickly pulled the plug on him, in the hope of cosying up to his revolutionary successors. The upshot was to put Iran — and American diplomatic hostages — into the hands of mobs inflamed by a religious maniac.

INTELLIGENCE weakness aside, President Carter stands in that disastrous line of U.S. statesmen, starting with Franklin Roosevelt, who supposed that goodwill and concessions to the Soviet Union would be reciprocated in kind. There are unmatched concessions, some of them harmful to the precarious security of Western Europe, in the Salt II treaty that Carter wants ratified.

The line of Soviet-appeasing statesmen has been interrupted at times by leaders (Harry Truman first) who understood Soviet purposes and resolved to resist them. The 1980 presidential election may again produce such a leader, despite those Americans who actually prefer to have the giant play a dwarfish, apologetic part in world affairs. If not, all the world's free people will be insecure.



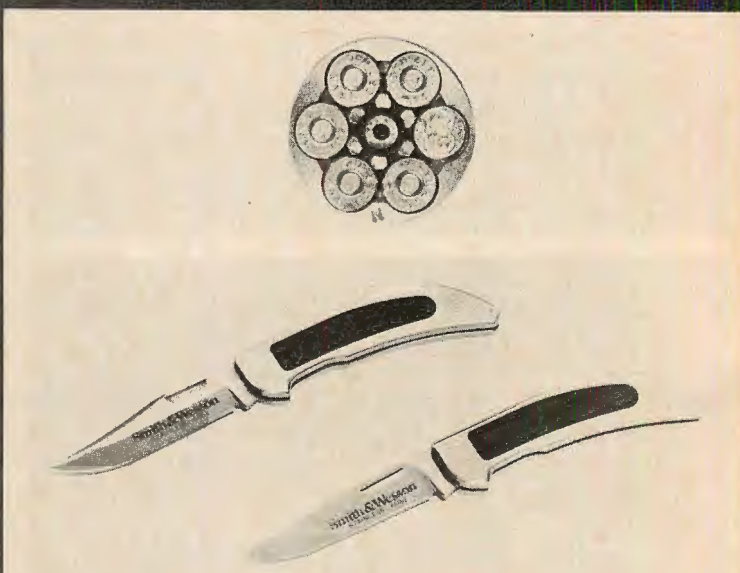
Adventure Quartermaster

N.E. MacDougald



A SIGHT TO BEHOLD

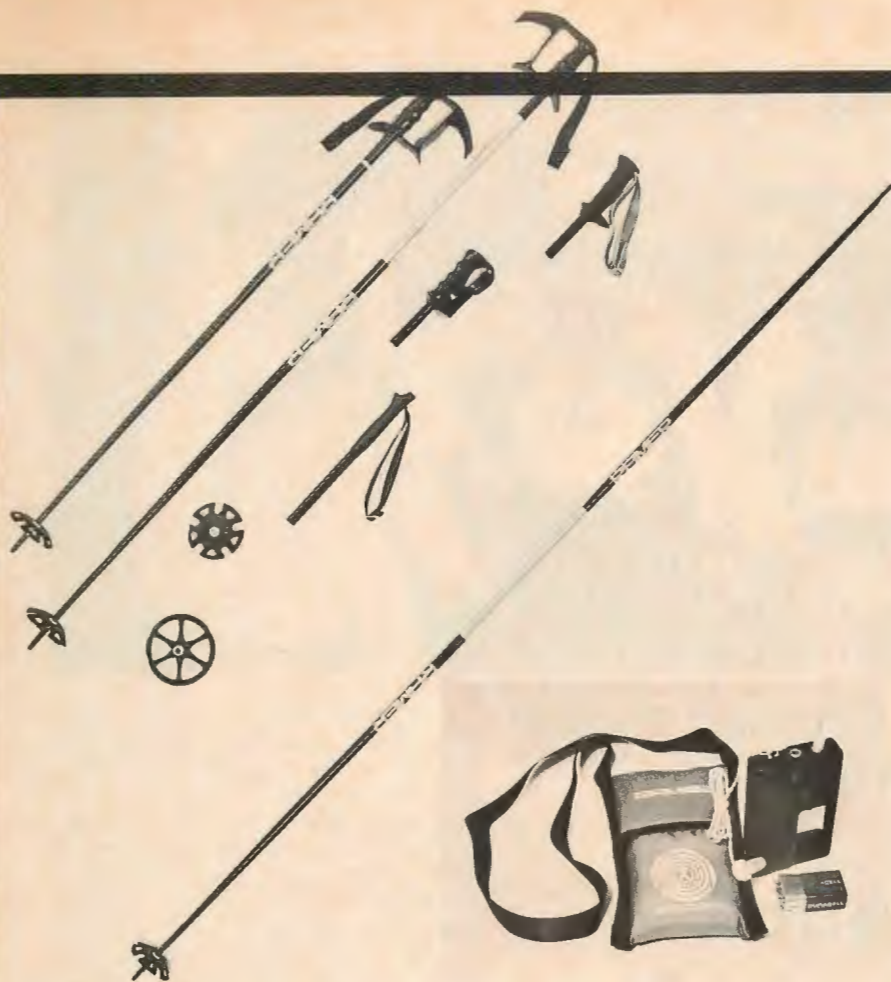
Feather Enterprises, Dept. SOF, 130 S. 42nd St., Boulder, CO 80303, produces a match peep-sight for Ruger's Mini-14. The maker claims the replacement sight installs in seconds with no modifications to the gun. The hooded aperture is claimed to improve accuracy. Made of aerospace-quality resin bond, the sight retails for \$4.95 plus \$1 for postage and handling.



S&W's THAT DON'T SHOOT

Smith & Wesson, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 2208, Springfield, MA 01101, markets two versions of its Maverick folding knife. Both 3½-inch blades are 440A stainless and are flat-ground. A clip-point and a drop-point skinner are offered. Both knives feature a rosewood insert and a soft brass blade stop. Overall length is 4½ inches. The Mavericks retail for \$29.95 including sheath.

S&W also offers the Magnum buckle, depicting the loaded cylinder of a .357 magnum with the company's logo in one of the chambers. The two-inch-diameter buckle is die-struck from brass with a finish that looks like stainless steel. The Magnum accepts a 1½-inch belt and retails for \$10.95.



SKI SAFELY

Alpine Research, Dept. SOF, Coal Creek Canyon, 34 Wondervu Ranch, Golden, CO 80401, manufactures ski equipment featuring safety. Their adjustable aluminum ski poles double as an avalanche probe by connecting the shafts via a pushbutton. Interchangeable nylon grips include a new self-arrest model, conventional alpine, strapless alpine, and touring. Two baskets are available, a 4-inch snowflake and a 5-inch powder model. The self-arrest grip is designed to gradually stop a skier who has fallen on medium or high-angle snow. The poles weigh from 22 to 29 ounces and sell for \$55 (\$60 for self-arrest model).

Alpine Research also markets the Echo 1 avalanche transceiver. The unit operates on the same frequency as the Skadi and Pieps beacons and has an operating range of 60 feet. Echo 1 uses a standard nine-volt battery and has all its electronics encased in high-impact epoxy. Echo 1 weighs 6 ounces and retails for \$75.

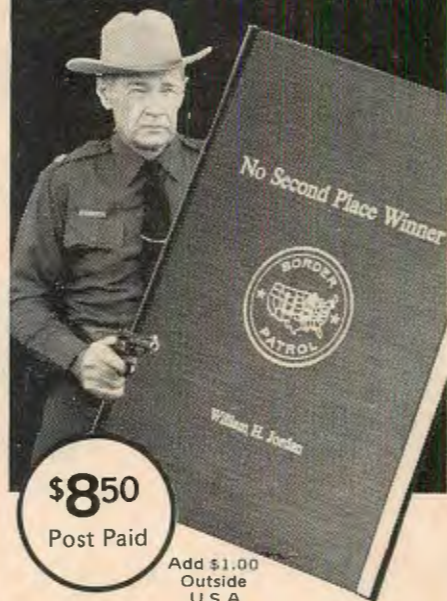


THE PEN IS MIGHTIER

Armament Systems Products, Unltd., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 18595, Atlanta, GA 30328, announces their Scribe knife. The 2½-inch triangular blade or pick is housed in the cap of a Big Red ballpoint pen made by Parker. The pen's barrel is the sheath. According to ASP's brochure, "The Scribe is available to operatives with the proper credentials for \$25."



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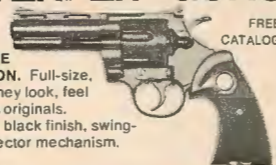
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Tracy Richardson and Sam Dreben (third and fourth from right) stand with unidentified Mexican *soldados* in photo taken in about 1913 in Ciudad Juarez. Photo: Otis Aultman

by Dale L. Walker

World's Greatest Machine Gunner?

Tracy Richardson: Soldier of Fortune

LATE in his life, the great American soldier of fortune Tracy Richardson compiled a "personal history," a document consisting of two closely typed pages with a rubber-stamped "Tracy Richardson, Lt. Col., Air Corps, Commanding" at the end. It is a strangely laconic paper from a man who fought under the flags of at least seven nations and who carried 16 wound scars on his body — each with its own harrowing tale of bullet, shell, bayonet and machete attack.

Tracy's two-page life summary contrasts sharply with a 1915 statement by the ordinarily staid *New York Times*: "Whenever the cannon booms and the rifles bark, this American boy, who embodies in real life the type of moving picture hero of the soldier of fortune one reads about but never sees, is pretty sure to turn up sooner or later — and it is generally sooner. Along the Rio Grande he is known by thousands of the adventurous souls who populate that picturesque and very troublesome stretch of territory. From Brownsville to Nogales there is not a dugout or an adobe hut that does not know him."

In contrast, Richardson's own biography ends:

"I have never used an assumed name.
"I have never been a gambler—professional.

"I have never been expelled from any country.

"I have never been convicted of a crime."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SOF is pleased to welcome Dale L. Walker aboard with this article on Tracy Richardson. Walker, a 20-year free-lance author whose specialization is military history, began writing professionally during a four-year Navy enlistment.

Now director of the University of Texas News Service in El Paso, Tex., Walker's writing credentials include six books, nearly 250 magazine articles and stories, and what he describes as "a ton of newspaper work." His books include *Lost Revolutionary: A Biography of John Reed* (with Richard O'Connor; 1967) and *Death Was A Black Horse: The Story of Rough Rider "Buckey" O'Neill* (1975).

—M.L. Jones

Even aside from its brevity, Tracy Richardson's lackluster compilation of data on his fabulous career contains at least one oversight. When he wrote, "I have never been a gambler — professional," he was obviously thinking in terms of dice, cards, roulette and such, for he *was* indeed a "gambler — professional" — gambling in banana republics in Central and South America, in Mexico, and in France, that a man with an expert hand on a machine gun can survive.

Rebellion and Revolution

That Richardson did survive is incredible on the face of it. He survived wars on small and grand scales: lived through rebellion, revolution, and obscure but bloody battles without number; he ran headlong into trouble even when he did not seek it out — such as the occasion when he single-handedly captured the city of Managua, Nicaragua — and emerged unscathed; and he bluffed and survived all this, and much more, and died a commonplace, quiet death, obscure and forgotten.

Whatever deity had been assigned to watch over his beginning in 1892, it deserted him 57 years later.

Tracy Custer Richardson first saw the light of day through a chinked window of a sod house in Broken Bow, Neb., on November 21, 1892. His parents moved to Lamar, Mo., when Richardson was only a few months old, and Lamar became one of several "homes" for him and the one he returned to when his career reached its nadir after World War II.

He attended Lamar public schools to the eighth grade, then took a job with the Prairie Oil and Gas Company on a pipeline project running from Morris, Okla., to Baton Rouge, La., working as time-keeper, commissary clerk and purchasing agent for the company. Louisiana, at the southern end of the pipeline, Richardson learned, was the debarkation point for all

kinds of adventuresome expeditions into Central America, and in 1909 he parted company with the Prairie Oil people to make what he called "a trip around the tropics."

On his abrupt little "Personal History" sheet, Richardson speaks of "joining the Nicaraguan revolutionary army," and "remaining in Nicaragua" through 1909-1910, but this scarcely tells the story of his debut as a soldier of fortune. One Richardson exploit in that Central American country is so fantastic it smacks of myth — but it might have actually happened.

Nicaragua's Ragtag Rebel Army

After "joining the Nicaraguan revolutionary army" in 1909 — a ragtag crew of rebels opposed to the dictatorship of Jose Santos Zelaya — Richardson rode with

He boomed his threat to the incredulous *jefe*: "General Luis Mena has sent me to give you a chance for your life. Managua is surrounded at this minute. We outnumber you 10 to one."

Surrender!

The Managua *commandante* considered the situation for a moment, mentally weighing what the brash young man before him had said and, no doubt, concluding that *no one* would be stupid enough to ride into Managua with such a message if it were not true. Then, to Richardson's barely concealed amazement, the *jefe* surrendered his forces to the American "messenger" from General Mena.

Later, in another recorded feat of the Nicaraguan revolt, Richardson and an-

philosophic godfather. Born on a plantation on the Amite River, Livingston Parish, La., in 1863, Christmas' early career was spent mundanely as a locomotive engineer before he found the wars, adventure, renown and gold of the Central American tinder-box republics to his liking.

Before his illustrious career ended in his death in 1924 (from a variety of jungle diseases called "tropic spruce" which caused an incurable anemia), Christmas had served as general in the armies of five Central American countries. He had, in addition, earned a reputation as rebel leader and jungle fighter second only to that of the great American filibuster-soldier William Walker, who died before a Nicaraguan firing-squad in 1860.

Richard Harding Davis, the dashing newspaper correspondent and author who came to know many of the professional



Tracy Richardson, doing his thing: manning a machine gun aimed at *federales* during the Bonilla revolution in Honduras. (Photo from *Liberty*, Oct. 10, 1925.)

the rebel general Luis Mena toward the city of Managua and found himself scouting far ahead of his column to avoid the smothering clouds of dust raised by Mena's horsemen. Without realizing it, the teen-aged *Americano* rode into the city (population then of about 20,000) and found himself surrounded by a squad of federal soldiers.

Richardson, with the first of what would become a legendary series of bluffs, said authoritatively, "I am a messenger from the commander of the revolutionary army to your commanding general. Take me to him." Nonplussed, the *federales* escorted the gritty "messenger" to the federal garrison's commander. Once there, Richardson's stone-faced *sangfroid* stayed with him.

other man were credited with "wiping out a Nicaraguan federal regiment with two machine guns mounted behind sandbags concealed with shrubbery."

Fighting with Gen. Christmas

The second and third flags in Richardson's new career came equally as quickly. Briefly he joined a revolutionary band in Venezuela early in 1911, fighting against the tyrannical government of Juan Vicente Gomez; then, given \$600 in gold by "recruiters" of the already-famous banana republic filibuster, General Lee Christmas, Richardson joined Christmas' forces in the fever jungles of Honduras.

Lee Christmas of New Orleans might be called Tracy Richardson's spiritual and

mercenary soldiers of his day, used Lee Christmas as the model for the hero "Clay" in his famous novel, *Soldier of Fortune*.

Richardson's prowess with a machine gun — he once said, "It's a curious thing the way a machine gun takes hold of you if you're a natural-born machine-gunner" — earned him a colonelcy under Lee Christmas and he fought valiantly in the Honduran Bonilla revolt with the great New Orleans soldier.

Sam Dreben, the fighting Jew

Another soldier of fortune Richardson met with Christmas' army would become a life-long friend. This was Sam Dreben, "the fighting Jew." Dreben, born in Russia in about 1878, at the age of 20

came to the United States where he enlisted for duty in the Philippine insurrection that followed the Spanish-American War. Afterward, Dreben served in China, during the relief of Peking in the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, then drifted back to the States, seeking adventure as an irregular soldier — and finding it with the redoubtable Lee Christmas in Honduras.

Service in Mexico

After the Bonilla revolt ended, Richardson and Sam Dreben were in New Orleans planning a gun-running expedition to Venezuela when emissaries of anti-Madero forces in Mexico invited the two adventurers to carry their business enterprises into the northern part of that country. Richardson and Dreben sold their services for \$500 in gold a month to the two *caudillos*, General Ynez Salazar and General Emiliano Campa, who had just captured the city of Juárez, across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas. The two *Americanos* joined Salazar's column (soon to ally with that of Gen. Pascual Orozco) outside Juárez and took part in a series of obscure skirmishes at places such as Rellano Jiménez, Pedricena, Hacienda de la Refugio, and Villa Lopez.

For *gringos*, even such capable machine-gunning ones as Tracy Richardson and Sam Dreben, life in any of the various Mexican rebel "armies" was a constant struggle to stay alive — not only on the battlefield, but in camp in times of relative quiet. The volatile Mexican *generales*, ever-suspicious that the Americans would decamp to an opposing army on the signal of the tinkling of gold coins, frequently exploded in anger at the slightest provocation. For some Americans (such as writer Ambrose Bierce), these situations ended in a final grim tableau before a hastily summoned firing squad.

General Emiliano Campa was this sort of short, smoldering *jefe* and for some unknown reason conceived an intense dislike and distrust for three of the *gringos* in his ranks — Richardson, Dreben, and a tall, baby-faced adventurer named Jack Zimmerman. Once, during the Chihuahua campaign, Campa lined the three men up against an adobe wall, threatening to have his execution squad open fire. In true story-book style, however, the three American *soldados* were reprieved at the last moment, with a warning from Campa that the next parade before the wall would be the last.

Tracy Richardson is often mentioned as an "American Villista," but in truth he never fought for the famous Pancho. One tale, possibly apocryphal, possibly true, exists that Villa once placed a \$10,000 reward on Richardson's head — perhaps as a theatrical gesture to show Villa's consuming hatred for any man, Mexican or American, who rode with an opposition camp. In any case, so the story goes,

Richardson ran into Villa and his sinister bodyguard, Rodolfo Fierro, in an El Paso saloon in 1912.

Bluff or Sheer Guts?

Richardson, perhaps utilizing the bluff technique he had honed to a fine edge in Nicaragua, or perhaps simply overendowed with guts (something he proved time and again), is supposed to have had a heated conversation with Villa on the matter of the \$10,000 bounty and, with Fierro looking grimly on, forced the unarmed Villa to back down and apologize for the "inconvenience" he had caused.

In 1914, Richardson left the Mexican border to join the forces of the diminutive Kansas game-cock, General Frederick Funston, when American troops landed at Vera Cruz. Richardson served briefly with Funston as an intelligence officer — his inside knowledge of revolutionary Mexico coming in quite handy — with the rank of "acting captain" and the pay to go with it.

At the age of 22, the Lamar, Mo., *soldado* had matured beyond his tender years. He was a lean, sun-baked six-footer with a perpetual squint in his eyes from staring into tropical suns, a well-trimmed dark mustache, prominent nose, close-cropped sandy hair. If he were not exactly handsome, at least he looked every inch the professional soldier-adventurer.

His usual rate of pay was \$500 a month and \$500 a battle — if he won. In a full-dress revolution like the one in Mexico, he upped the ante to \$1,000 a victory. And he usually won.

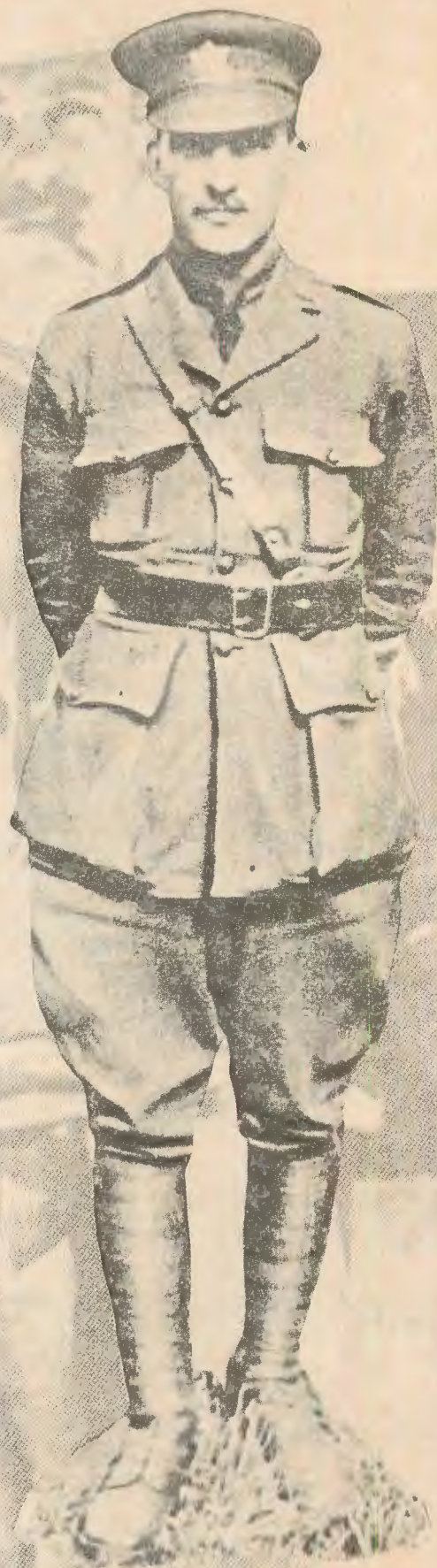
Between Mexico and Richardson's journey to Canada, a short, mysterious chapter in his career occurs in which he served, perhaps only for a few weeks, as a customs collector in Guatemala. It is believed the job came as a reward for his participation in a coup or revolt in that country.

World War I

Whatever the case, the Great War in Europe, breaking out in August 1914, with the scythe-like sweep of the Kaiser's soldiers into neutral Belgium, gave Richardson the opportunity to shake the jungle mud from his boots. A month after the war began, he had made his way to Canada (the U.S. — of which he had seen little in the previous five years — would not participate in the war for three more years), anxious to get to the fighting.

Nicaragua — Honduras — Mexico — Guatemala — Canada. Richardson's flags were piling up.

For the first phase of his World War I service, Richardson chose one of Canada's most illustrious units, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regiment, which welcomed him as a seasoned machine-gunner, a commodity soon to be badly needed on the Western Front of France. During the short training period



in Canada, Richardson met other Americans eager to get into the fight, among them a tall, immensely likable fellow — named Frederick Faust and called “Heinie,” in a friendly way, of course. Faust, whose heart flutter would soon wash him out of any chance for active service in France, had a flair for writing. Not too many years later he became famous under the most renowned of his many pen-names, “Max Brand.”

The training period ended, Richardson joined the Princess Pats in Belgium’s freezing trenches in January 1915. He fought bravely in the bloody attrition battles of St. Eloi and Vimy Ridge.

Decorated for breaking up a machine-gun attack, at the second battle of Ypres he was among 5,000 men who went over the top, and one of 250 who returned. He took a serious series of wounds on May 4, 1915.

‘Considerably Holed Up’

Convalescing in a British hospital, Richardson was interviewed by a New York Times reporter, whose story subsequently received the headline, “The ‘Machine-Gun Man of the Princess Pats.’” The report appeared in the Times on October 31, 1915. It said: “Down in El Paso, in Vera Cruz, at Del Rio, at Nogales, in Central America, where Tracy’s name was a household word, his friends had heard that he was dead; that he had ‘gone to glory,’ as one of them put it, fighting to the last in the very face of a vicious German assault. Then came the news from Tracy himself that he was still very much alive, although ‘considerably holed up,’ as he referred to the three wounds from which he was recovering.”

The Times quoted Richardson as saying, “I was wounded in the back early in the morning [of May 4, 1915] by a piece of shell which struck me between the shoulders and plowed down my back and lodged just over my hip bone, where it still remains. About noon I caught a piece of shell through the right leg. By this time we had only one man on the gun who was unwounded. At five o’clock the Germans scored a direct hit on our gun with a six-inch shell, and the gun was gone, and I had another wound in the right leg.”

Of his convalescence, Richardson said, “I was sent to a hospital at Rouen where they kept me for 23 days, and then sent me over here to England, where the folks talk ‘American’ and where they are all good to you. I have been here ever since, and the day is drawing near for my return to the front.

“I am pretty well shot up, but not a ‘goner’ by a long shot. They may order me before a medical board when I get back to Flanders, and should they rule me out of action for good, I’ll come back to Texas and get ready perhaps for Mexico. Who can tell? From the little I hear, things seem to be up and doing in Mexico

and maybe the bubble will ‘bust’ yet! Well, this is enough for one time. Remember me to the fellows in El Paso.”

War in the Sky

As it turned out, the medical board permitted Richardson to return to service. He received a commission in the 97th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force — called, because of the sizable number of Americans in it, the “Yank Battalion.” Later, Richardson transferred to the British Royal Naval Air Service, received flight training at Vendome, France, and flew patrols over the North Sea. He also served as instructor in pursuit flying and combat at Cranwell, England, until 1918 when he transferred to the American Air Service as a pilot. He attended an American flying school at Issoudun, France; spent some time in the U.S. commanding an aerial gunnery school at Selfridge Field, Mount Clemens, Mich.; and ended the war commanding the aerial gunnery school at St. Jean De Monte, France.

And, sandwiched between all this activity, Richardson obtained a short leave of absence before the war ended to go to London where he received a certificate in mining based on his studies in 1915 when hospitalized and recovering from his Ypres wounds at Manchester, England.

Postwar Career

From the end of the Great War until his death, Richardson’s life was a peripatetic one — and astoundingly calm, though far-flung, for a man who spent nearly a decade behind a chattering machine gun in trouble spots from Vera Cruz to France. After his discharge from the U.S. Air Service in 1919, he prospected in northern Canada, explored mining areas of the Patuca River region of Honduras, conducted an oil survey in Guatemala, surveyed the mahogany timber country in the state of Chiapas, Mexico; worked for the Burns Detective Agency in New Orleans, sold real estate in Florida and Washington, D.C., worked as a police reporter for the Chicago *Herald-Examiner* and as a prohibition agent in New York City, managed a gold mine at Ixtapan del Oro, Mexico, in 1930; worked on an oil drilling rig at Tyler, Texas; and worked mines of various kinds in Spokane, Wash., and Cripple Creek, Colo.

Richardson’s post-war career included at least three incidents in which he was arrested and jailed on various charges — once for “rudely displaying and flourishing a deadly weapon,” again for mail fraud, and a third time for murder. He was cleared of all three crimes. The murder charge occurred in 1922 when he shot and killed a man named John Murphy in New Orleans. Richardson’s explanation was simple: he said he killed

Murphy “after the man had attacked me and twice wounded me.”

The case was presented to a New Orleans grand jury which returned a “no-bill” and agreed that Richardson had killed in self-defense and at the time of the incident had been working as a special officer with a permit to carry a pistol.

In 1933, the veteran campaigner stayed a year in Albuquerque, working in various unimportant mining jobs. Times were apparently difficult for him and Richardson wrote to his old friend from the Princess Pats, “Heinie” Faust, by now world-famous as western writer Max Brand, asking for a loan of \$250. Faust came through and Richardson moved back to New Orleans where he eked out a living at various jobs, among them writing for pulp magazines.

World War II

In 1941, he returned to active service, first as intelligence officer in the Eastern Procurement District, later as air inspector and base commander with the Second Air Force in Colorado. After a short stint of duty in the Aleutian Islands, he was discharged from the Army as a lieutenant colonel on January 13, 1946.

Richardson’s skein was now quickly running out. The two men he held in warmest admiration were long dead: Lee Christmas having succumbed to his jungle fevers on January 21, 1924; “The Fighting Jew,” Sam Dreben, collapsing in a doctor’s office in Hollywood, Calif., on March 15, 1925 — dead at the age of 47, after a World War I career that surpassed even Richardson’s. Dreben had earned a Distinguished Service Cross in October, 1918, for combat at St. Etienne, and returned home with the DSC, Medaille Militaire, Croix de Guerre with palms, and a tunic-full of other medals.

Quiet end for “World’s greatest machine gunner.”

Richardson, veteran of five or six wars, untold battles, honors from at least seven nations, and 16 wounds as badges of special honor, spent his last three years of life hawking household appliances door to door in Missouri — close to his hometown, Lamar.

He died on April 22, 1949, in Springfield, Mo., virtually forgotten. Years earlier, the great war correspondent Richard Harding Davis — who knew him in Mexico and in France — said of the bold machine-gunner: “Tracy Richardson has lived more soldier-of-fortune tales than I could ever write,” an epitaph that was not, but should have been, chiseled on the Richardson tombstone, beneath the time-worn message — “Rest in Peace.”





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A belt holster well suited to general field use. High ride allows seating with long barrels. Holster is molded to fit your gun. Special flap protects adjustable rear sights. Available silicone suede lining protects fine gun finishes. Lock stitched with durable linen thread.

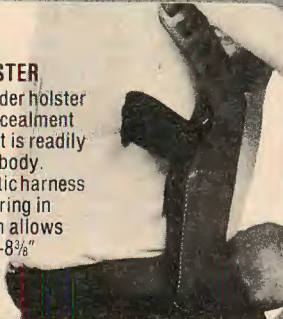
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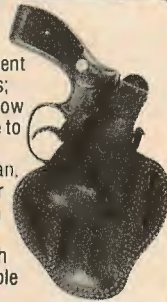
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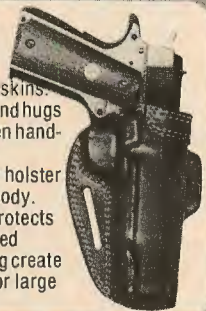
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Named after legendary pistolero Col. Charles Askins. This holster rides high and hugs the body. The fit has been hand-molded for your gun. Stabilizing slot through holster pulls gun butt against body. Molded sight channel protects front sights. Hand-rubbed leather and fine stitching create a long-lasting holster for large autos.



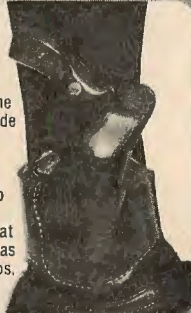
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IN today's society, encountering the criminal element often requires a SWAT team to go undercover. Instances such as infiltrating a terrorist group and negotiating a hostage situation force team members into plain, casual or even bizarre clothing. The difficulty of these covert missions, however, comes when assuring adequate concealment while maintaining combat effectiveness.

There are occasions, for example, when the undercover assignment might require such clothing, especially in warmer climates. Here a coat might be out of place.

Many current rigs are bulky and uncomfortable and have other drawbacks.

CONCEALMENT, ACCESSIBILITY

The UPOP Concealment Technique was devised by UPOP Research & Development of Miami, Fla. Its goal is to provide improved concealment and ready access to the weapon. The aim was to develop a technique that did not limit the wearer's functioning, did not require wearing a coat or other outer garment, yet would afford relative comfort while assuring ample firepower capability.

This UPOP Concealment Technique combines a special rig with an innovative method of drawing the weapon swiftly. This rig is concealable (see photos), relatively comfortable, and, most important, secure.

An important feature of this technique involves choice of weapon. The Colt .45 was selected for a number of reasons. It is extremely reliable, easily obtainable and relatively inexpensive. The Colt .45 has ample, established stopping power and uses readily available military ball ammo.

COLT .45

And the Colt .45 favors concealability. Among semi-autos, it has a much flatter profile than most. There is no bulk in the grip area like those which utilize the double-line staggered box magazine.

Why choose a semi-auto over the revolver for undercover operations? Concealability. The cylinder of most revolvers is too bulky. The leg holster holds no real advantage for SWAT team members, because it interferes with running, jumping and rappelling. Also, the weapon tends to fall out of this type holster. The Colt .45, in addition to being flatter, has an increased cartridge capacity, decreased reloading time (just snap in a new loaded magazine), and a greater number of aimed shots per unit of time.

The UPOP Concealment Technique rig is comprised of a suede Bianchi undercover holster attached to a Safariland trouser belt with hooks. Nothing unique there. What is unusual, however, is the way in which they are worn. The UPOP concept has the rig attached to the underwear and worn, therefore, inside the trousers and beneath the tucked-in shirt!

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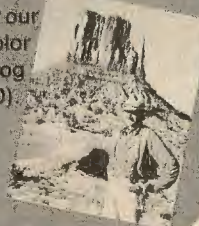


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by Robert Allman & Nick Ladas



LEFT: UPOP Concealment Technique rig in position. Weapon is placed over upper left quadrant of buttocks, not on side. Colt .45 is without grips, provides slimmer profile. Photo: Darryl Gray

BELOW: UPOP Concealment Technique rig worn beneath street clothes. Note excellent concealability. Wallet worn over rig, aids in concealment. Photo: Darryl Gray



is accomplished by the addition of six belt loops sewn to the outside of a pair of men's briefs — two toward the front, two at the sides, and two in back. Spacing is important. The belt is threaded through the belt loops and the holster is attached to the inside of the belt so that the rig fits approximately over the upper left quadrant of the buttocks. Reverse this for lefties. It is important that a wallet be worn in the trousers pocket over the holster to aid in concealing any potential bulge. It is also recommended that double-knit trousers be worn as they have the elasticity to assist in concealment. A word of caution to the team member first trying this technique — wear old clothes during the break-in period, as the new holster has a tendency to “bleed,” staining the garment.

For improved concealment, the Colt .45 is carried without grips, providing a slimmer profile.

With the UPOP Concealment Technique in operation, the law enforcement personnel involved in covert assignments will have ample firepower to bear upon the enemy rapidly and reliably. The accompanying photos demonstrate the correct procedure for drawing and firing.

LIMITATIONS

Although this UPOP technique works well, it has limitations. Since the belt loops are sewn to the underwear, any mission involving a time period of over one day would require several pairs of looped briefs. This technique also requires employment of a semi-auto pistol. Many undercover law enforcement personnel prefer revolvers. Although the UPOP technique is relatively comfortable, comfort is subjective, and some may find it not to their liking. Also, the more slender the individual, the less concealable the rig. Although this technique works well in warm climates and in situations where an outer coat or garment would not be worn, the technique might present a maneuverability problem if attempted in cold climates when multiple layers of outer clothing are worn. Finally, this UPOP Concealment Technique requires practice in drawing and firing. Some may not be able to adapt to the rear cross-over drawing technique, although we found it reasonably simple. All things considered, we would rate the UPOP Concealment Technique effective when used for the purposes and under the circumstances for which it was designed.

Those interested in ordering the UPOP Concealment Technique may purchase the kit from UPOP Research & Development. The kit includes one belt (state waist size), one holster (state weapon model), 10 belt loop sets, and instructions. Send check or money order for \$29.90 plus \$3.00 per kit postage and handling to: UPOP R&D Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 610443, Miami, FL 33161.



Africa's Bloodiest Tyrant: Formative Years

IDI AMIN

by Kifaru



ON the wall of my office, here in Rhodesia, is a photograph of a King's African Rifles shooting team taken about 20 years ago in Uganda. I sit, smiling rather smugly, in the front row (after all I was the shooting team captain), and standing at one side is a fine looking African warrant officer, with the broad shoulders and narrow waist of an athlete and the single medal for Africa General Service "Kenya" on his left breast.

So often from visitors, I have the comments: "That is Idi Amin with you?" "Come on — you're pulling my leg" or, more bluntly: "I don't believe you!" However, it was true and the warrant officer in the picture with me is Idi Amin, late president of Uganda and blood-thirsty megalomaniac.

"He was amusing, strong-willed and generally liked."

I have not the slightest intention of trying to defend him, but it may surprise people to know that he was not always like that; in fact, he was an amusing, violently energetic, strong-willed soldier who was generally liked by all who served with him both black and white. Apart from the usual truism about absolute power corrupting absolutely, some clue to

his behavior in recent years may also be gained from an article in a London newspaper recently, telling of Idi's congenital syphilis which caused him to have two forms of brain damage.

I saw the excellent French-made film about Idi Amin a couple of years ago and although he was recognizable as the man I had known, it was like a bad caricature. The bloated bag of wind on the screen with his sagging stomach was difficult to reconcile with my memory of the incredibly fit sergeant major who knocked out a British police officer to become heavyweight boxing champion of Uganda. Not the same sergeant major who won most of the track events in the battalion with his sheer thrusting speed. The man whom we trained to play rugby (to the disgust of a number of European sides at the time) and who had little real knowledge of the game but, if passed the ball, would invariably run to touchdown because his opponents could either not catch him, or, if they did, found themselves flattened by this human dynamo.

I knew Idi, in all, for six years, three of which I served beside him in the 4th Battalion, The King's African Rifles (Uganda Rifles) and a further three when I was with a Kenya Battalion of KAR and Idi was an officer in the Ugandan army.

From the foregoing, some readers may be thinking that I have, possibly, exaggerated Idi Amin's physical fitness, but I can assure them that this is not the case. Shortly after I joined the Uganda Rifles, on Secondment, I was having dinner with a company commander under whom Idi had served as a sergeant during the recent Mau Mau campaign. We talked about Idi and my friend who, by the way, was an ex-Arnhem paratrooper and had a fetish about physical fitness, suddenly said: "Do you know I once saw Idi run down and catch a buck."

Another officer and I laughed and declared, firmly, that we did not believe this and that our host, despite his excellent hospitality, was, not to put too fine a point to it, taking the mickey!

"All right, you disbelieving ingrates," said our friend. "I will actually show you." He then brought out a movie projector and screen, sorted out a reel and put it on.

We saw the wide scrubby plains of Karamoja in northern Uganda, with a group of Askari, wearing PT shorts and plimsolls [tennis shoes] and carrying pangas, leaving a training camp to go hunting game. This they often did by surrounding some unsuspecting animal, then closing in on it. Prominent in the film was the tall, gleaming, grinning figure of Idi.

Once Upon A Time He Was Fit, Amusing And Liked. But Barbaric Even Then. Absolute Power Turned Him Into Idi Amin.

There were a number of Thompson gazelles on the plain, and the hunt started. A number of shots of game running and soldiers running, all a bit confusing, and then our host said: "Now, watch this."

There was Idi running after a single "Tommy gazelle." The creature zig-zagged, but with so much other movement, it must have become confused. Instead of just running in a straight line and leaving Idi behind, it began to run in circles. There was something awesome about the giant, sweating figure of Idi, running and running, getting closer to the unfortunate, panic-stricken animal. Suddenly, with a spurt, he was amazingly on it. He had no panga, he grabbed the creature, there was a flurry of dust and kicking legs and then, Idi, raising the dead animal above his head and the other Askari leaping and dancing in glee about him. A barbaric, but impressive display.

"I thought we were at war."

I discovered, as I got to know Idi much better, that despite his lively sense of humor and easy manner, there was a raw ruthlessness not far from the surface of his personality. This ruthlessness reduced a tough young British officer to a state of shaking nervousness during a big battalion exercise when the officer's platoon was in a defended position and had the shattering experience of being hit by Idi Amin's platoon in a dawn attack.

The officer said that this line of figures suddenly appeared in front of the position in the dawn light and, screaming insanely, with the towering figure of Idi in the forefront, they overran his trenches. He said that one of Idi's huge hands grabbed the muzzle of his nearest Bren gun which had just begun to fire and, with a flick, hurled the weapon over his shoulder to land many yards in the rear.

Idi's platoon had bayonets fixed and as the officer's platoon began to lose their nerve, the attackers used their bayonets. He said he thought that he had undergone some weird time change and was really at war. He began shouting for everyone to stop and that this was only an exercise, but Idi's platoon seemed intent on massacre.

Eventually the officer calmed them down, but not before two of his men were taken away with bayonet wounds and a number of others were fairly extensively battered and bruised. The recovered Bren gun also proved to be unserviceable.

Another time I was waiting with a number of officers and warrant officers for commanding officer's orders. In my adjutant's office were several regimental trophies and relics, including, in a small frame, the shoulder badge of a Mau Mau "General" with the information that this was collected by one Sergeant Idi Amin near Fort Hall in Kenya when he had killed the said general.

I said to Idi, "Come on, sergeant major, while we are waiting, tell us how you killed the General."

"I blew his head off."

"Ah, yes, I will tell you," was the reply and away we went on the follow-up and contact in the Kenya forests.

Idi's vivid description finished like this: "We saw them at the other side of the stream, so I raised my Sterling and fired. The leader fell to the ground and lay there screaming and holding his legs where I had hit him. I rushed across the stream to finish him off, but found my magazine was empty. So I changed my magazine (going through the motions of doing so). I then blew his head off. Next, I tore off his shoulder cord and here it is on the wall of your office, sir." Fascinating, I thought, but the cold-blooded bit about changing the magazine stuck in my mind.

Another time, Idi Amin saved me from a very unpleasant and painful experience. We were both with the battalion shooting team at an important rifle meeting in Kenya. The team was doing very well, but to win the competition, it was vital that my partner and I win the Bren pairs competition. Tension mounted before this important match. However, we won it.

"Don't move, sir!"

My partner and I returned to our team area to the cheers and congratulations of Idi and the others. I lay down on the soft grass, with the snow and glaciers of Mount Kenya rising nearby and the warm sun playing on my face. We had won the match which meant that our team had won the whole competition — the tension oozed out of me and I closed my eyes. I must have dozed off.

The next thing that happened, I heard the deep voice of Idi Amin saying, urgently: "Do not move, sir, whatever you do, do *not* move." One can imagine what wild thoughts raced through my confused mind at this stage; however, I kept deadly

still, but opened my eyes to see the giant figure of Idi towering over me, and the other members of the team looking down on me with a variety of expressions on their faces, mostly of horrified fascination.

Idi called sharply to them, "*Lete fimbo upesi* [bring a stick quickly]!" My eyes moved fractionally and I saw that on my chest, crawling toward my bare throat was a Kenya centipede, about seven inches long. I knew that the sting from one of these things could put me in hospital, in great pain, for at least several days and allegedly, if one had a weak heart, it could kill him. At least, I didn't have a weak heart!

Suddenly Idi had his stick, and cleverly slipping it under the creature, he flicked it through the air away from me where he smashed his boot down on it. He then took a knife and after hacking and probing at the remains for a few minutes, he brought to me the sting and poison sack. The sting looked something like a large cat's claw. The Askaris, tension relieved, roared with laughter, led, of course, by Idi. I (somewhat weakly) joined in.

"Idi Amin is our leader. He works us hard."

The strength of Idi Amin's personality can be gauged by an incident a few years later. I was, by this time, serving with a Kenya Battalion of the KAR and Idi was on a course for "Effendi" rank — the nearest thing, at that time, to an African officer. This course was held in the same Kenya barracks where I was stationed. Also, on the same Effendi course was a lean, tough, efficient Somali sergeant major whom I also knew well. Seeing this CSM one day, I asked him how the course was going.

"Oh, it is very, very hard indeed, sir," he replied. Then, almost reading my thoughts, he added: "I don't mean the paperwork, I mean the physical side." This was strange coming from this lean, hard man who, I knew, could march or run most people off their feet.

"You see," he went on. "We have, as you know, Idi Amin as a student on the course and he has appointed himself our unofficial leader. He says that we must all do well on the course and be very fit. He forbids anyone on the course to smoke. I like to smoke, but now I do not dare to. Also, Idi said that although we go for an

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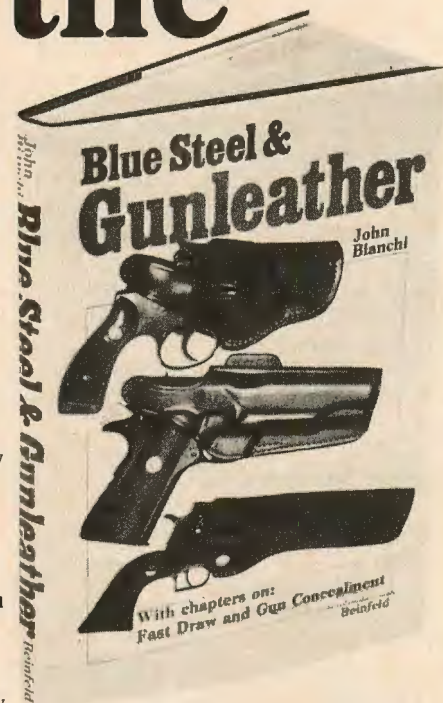
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**Dean Grennell
Managing Editor
GUN WORLD Magazine**

army run at 0600 hours each day, he insists that we get up and go for a run with him first at 0500 hours. It is all very, very hard!”

About a year after this, having become an Effendi, a number of African officers had to be appointed by a certain date and Idi and another Effendi were chosen for commissioning. They appeared before a board of officers and two friends of mine were members.

One of them told me later that when Idi was congratulated and told that he would become a lieutenant on a certain date, Idi thought for a minute and then said: “Gentlemen, please don’t commission me. I know I am a good Effendi, but I am not bright enough to be an officer.” Imagine, in recent years, anyone trying to remind him of that conversation!

The last time I saw Idi Amin, he was a captain commanding a company of The Uganda Rifles which was assisting our Kenya battalion in a search for illegal weapons in the wild, remote border areas to the north of Kenya and Uganda. On the return from these operations, I was organizing the final move of troops out of the area and on the last night before moving out, I was in my camp on my own, as all other officers had left and I was off at dawn. Idi’s company was moving at the same time and was camped about half a mile away.

Then, in the evening, an orderly came with a message — words to the effect would I, as an old friend, come and have supper with Captain Amin. I did so. There were just the two of us and I recall that we had a most enjoyable time refighting old battles and talking of Uganda. Next morning, we motored off in our separate directions.

A few days later, a great row arose over an allegation that Idi Amin’s men had tortured 16 prisoners to death during the operation and the local district commissioner had the bodies to prove it. It seems that Idi had been practicing for the future, even then.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kifaru is the Swahili word for rhinoceros. We received permission from Rhodesian Army officials to reprint this and a future article on former Central African Empire dictator Bokassa from its monthly publication, *Assegai*. The Rhodesians said they could not further identify the author but could confirm “his bona fides as impeccable. He has a strong military background and certainly knows what he is talking about.”

From reading the articles, SOF staffers have concluded that he is a white British officer who spent much of his military career commanding black troops in Africa. —B.P.

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Continued from page 12

usually done by soldiers on leave or BSAP men in between call-ups and can supplement a man's normal pay.

The Guard force used to be just that — employed to guard farms, ranches, etc. in a strictly defensive posture. However, as the war heated up, the unit adopted a more aggressive posture and took the field against the guerrillas actively.

It is composed of six battalions, two of them "line of rail" units that guard the railroad. The third battalion is an infantry battalion. Battalions Four through Six still serve on farm protection duty. All told there are 8,000 people in Guard Force including headquarters, training facilities, etc.

Guard Force contracts are non-binding for one year which means that either party may dissolve the agreement by giving a 30-day written notice. An individual who wishes to leave has to pay \$85 Rhodesian.

Note: Although money is frozen in ZR, anyone who leaves before two years residence may take with him all monies earned legally.

Good places to make private contacts and to pick up information are the Prospector's Club bar in the Monamatapa Hotel and the lounge in the Jameson Hotel.

SOF will keep on top of the situation in ZR and last-minute information may be obtained by writing or calling here.

ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE

An interesting option for foreigners who wish to serve a tour in Rhodesia without a long-term commitment is the Guard Force Reserve.

In this program, a man signs on for 45 days at approximately 60 percent of a Regular Guard Force officer's pay and he has the option of dissolving his contract with only 24 hours notice and with a penalty of only \$30 to \$40 Rhodesian.

At the end of the first 45 days, a man has the option of extending for another reserve tour, going regular or leaving without penalties.

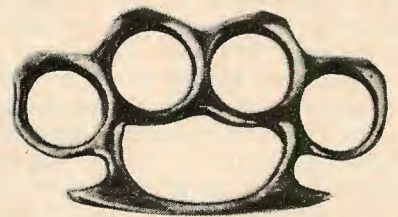
The program is a good deal for both employer and employee since it gives both a chance to have a look at one another and decide if either is suitable to the other.

Most Guard Force Reserve officers are foreigners and only experienced military personnel — preferably infantry — are given consideration.



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Editor's Note: No names will be mentioned in the following analysis of recent events in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia because those Rhodesians interviewed, both black and white, requested anonymity for varying reasons, and SOF respects such requests. SOF Managing Editor Bob Poos spent two weeks in ZR recently. He talked to people in all walks of life and went on counter-terrorist patrols, leaving just as the cease-fire documents were signed in London. During the time he was there, the war went on much as it has for the last decade. Terrorists murdered a couple of white farmers living in isolated areas and mortared the Zimbabwe Ruins resort hotel. The Rhodesian Light Infantry, Rhodesian Armored Regiment, Selous Scouts, British South African Police and Guard Force, among others, mounted routine combat patrols.

APPARENTLY the world is about to witness another "peace with honor," this time in southern Africa rather than South Vietnam and this time arranged by a Briton named Lord Carrington rather than a German-American named Henry Kissinger. The outcome will probably be the same, a new Marxist revolutionary government.

Very few people in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia greeted the cease-fire agreement with anything less than cynicism. About the most optimistic comment I heard during my stay there — and I was there when the agreements were signed — was, "Well, maybe I'll be able to buy some real Scotch whiskey now that the sanctions have been lifted." (All members of the United Nations have observed a UN sanction against sending goods of any kind to ZR, some observing the sanctions more strictly than others.)

The man sitting across the table at lunch in the Monomatapa Hotel was an upper class businessman who worked for one of the largest firms in Rhodesia. The Monomatapa is Rhodesia's version of the Waldorf-Astoria. He sipped at his gin and tonic and remarked: "Why are *you* asking *me* for predictions on what will happen here? You were in Vietnam for a long time and you are a student of what happened there. It will be the same here, with local variations.

"But since you've asked and you are obviously seriously interested, here's the scenario, as I see it. As you know, the 'Patriotic Front' is composed of two major groups, one called ZANLA, headed by a creature named Robert Mugabe and which is composed mostly of people from the Mashona tribe, based in Mozambique, and ZIPRA, led by one Joshua Nkoma, whose terrorist bases were largely located in Zambia and whose people are mostly of the Matebele tribe with a few Mashona. You also have some lesser factions but those are the main terrorist groups.

"Peace with Honor" in ZR

West Washes Hands

by Bob Poos
Photo: R.K. Brown

"And they don't like one another very much more than they do the present government of this country. They fight one another as well as the security forces.

"And you have the third major factor. The regular security forces. As you know, 90 percent of our security force is black. They have been fighting the terts for 10 years and they know that it's all over for them if the Patriotic Front should happen to win these elections the Brits are sponsoring.

"The way I see it, what's going to happen, no matter who wins the elections, all three major factions are going to wind up fighting one another. The winner? The winner will be whomever the Russians supply the most arms to. And, of course, the Cubans will soon stick their oar in, just as they have in Angola and to a lesser extent Zambia.

"At any rate, I predict it will be bloody and chaotic and I'm going to get out of here at my first opportunity."

A captain in the Security Force said, "How fast it happens depends on who wins the elections. But no matter who wins, hostilities will go on for years, at least three to five. Then it will be resolved in favor of one of the PF factions."

He added: "The blacks in this country have been so deprived of news of the rest of the world that they are not aware of the tragedies that have occurred in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and elsewhere, the bloodbaths, genocide of the Muong in Laos, mass starvation in Cambodia. Thus they will probably trust the grandiose promises of the Marxists, not realizing how dreadful reality can be."

Similar sentiments were echoed by an officer of an elite Rhodesian paramilitary unit: "One thing for certain, it's the end of the era of the white man here. And it's the end of all reason and sanity for the future. It will be black against black against black and it will be a bloodbath. Am I leaving? You bet I am. With everything I can get out of here.

"It's a pity, too. This is a beautiful country — I've lived here for more than 25 years and I love it. I know, also, that I'll never find anywhere else the good life that I've found here, the nice home, yard, swimming pool, servants. But at least

maybe I'll find security for my wife and family somewhere else. I've been fighting for this country a long time and I bitterly hate to lose. I guess your chaps who fought in Vietnam felt much the same. But I guess you have to accept fate."

An American officer in the regular Rhodesian army — some would call him a mercenary although he makes only about \$1,000 a month — said: "Well, you've got to figure that the Patriotic Front has a good chance of winning the elections. They can promise the sun and the moon to these people, fully aware they can't produce what they promise. The Bishop (Abel Muzorewa, first black prime minister of ZR who was chosen in what even critical observers judged a free election) has to be more of a realist. He knows the state of the economics in this country and he knows that if he makes a lot of promises he can't produce on, the Patriotic Front leaders will be at his throat — literally."

He added, "And as well as these people have done, I still can't see any other outcome. They cannot economically continue fighting this war forever. Their resources are almost drained now.

"I'll be leaving here when I've fulfilled my contract. Know anywhere they're hiring?"

Black Rhodesians gave similar predictions but for different reasons. Said a waiter in a hotel dining room: "Oh, yes, I'll vote for the Patriotic Front. I think Bishop Muzorewa is a nice man but under him we still have to work as hard as we did and we're not making any more money. The Patriotic Front will change all that. We'll have to work less hard and we'll make a lot more money. We'll have all the good things then."

Four thousand blacks turned out to greet the first contingent of terrorist officers who flew in from Mozambique and Angola after the cease-fire went into effect.

A black cab driver — a veteran of the Rhodesian African Rifles — said: "Yes, I believe the PF will win the elections. The people know they are the only ones who can end the fighting. They're the ones who started it and only they can end it."

Asked if he did not fear a civil war he shrugged: "We've been having one for a long time." He was unconvinced that the future might be even bloodier than the past

Another man serving in a paramilitary unit said: "Sure. The Brits. We've got lots of cause to love them, don't we. They'll be here just long enough to see the elections through — if that long. Then they'll pull out and leave us in the soup. Well, I'm pulling out. The locals can fight among themselves all they want. I've done my share of it. Maybe there's something in South Africa."

Only one person of a dozen or so interviewed differed with the others. A lean, sun-bronzed middle-aged man who owns a farm about 50 miles outside Salisbury said over lunch one day:

"I know it doesn't look good but the wife and I have stuck it out this long and we're going to stay around and see what happens now. Maybe it'll all work out for the best. Besides, what would I do and where would I go. I'm a Rhodesian and this is all I know."

Henry Kissinger won a Nobel Peace Prize for his "Peace With Honor" in Vietnam. Perhaps Lord Carrington will get one for the British "Peace With Honor" in Rhodesia. Yeech!

Editor's Note: The accompanying information on ZR's Guard Force (see page 12) was contributed by an American captain in the unit. He entered as a junior commandant, which is equivalent to a first lieutenant. He was rapidly advanced — in three months — to captain.

This man served in the U.S. Army Special Forces in Vietnam as an NCO and won a commission upon his return to the U.S.

He is very gung ho about the unit and would like to go into detail about tactics, kill ratio and other specifics but cannot because of security reasons.



ABOVE: From left to right: Publisher Brown with folding stock Remington 870 shotgun; George McMullen, ex-Florida cop with HK92; Jimmy Knapp of Pennsylvania and Scott Caldwell, ex-Nam vet and U.S. Marshal with FN's. Knapp was chief of security on 15,000 acre ranch; Caldwell worked for six months for Anglo-American in security. LEFT: Jack Waldie, former Florida police officer, with the ZR Guard Force chats with Jim Knapp during combined operation of Guard Force and ranch security unit. BELOW: Sunday tea time at ranch near Rusape, Rhodesia. Owner of ranch stands beneath Cape Buffalo head. Jim Knapp, chief of ranch security, seated in front.



“WE WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH”

Exclusive Interview with Afghan Rebel Leader

by R.K. Brown
Photos Courtesy Z.K. Nassry

For several months SOF has been following the progress of the anti-communist rebellion in Afghanistan — a small, vicious war which, until recently, was largely ignored by the U.S. press and totally ignored by the U.S. government.

SOF located one of the prominent leaders of the anti-communist forces who was in the U.S. to raise political support and publicize his cause. On 10 November 1979, Editor and Publisher Brown flew to New York City to interview Zia Khan Nassry, chairman of one of the largest of the rebel groups. Nassry, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the International Marketing Institute of Cambridge, is as fanatically dedicated to the cause of expelling the Russian tyrants as any bearded, turbaned Pashtun guerrilla. Though he lacks any formal military training, a discussion of weapons brings a gleam to his eye, especially if such weapons have the capability of dispatching large numbers of the hated Russians to the happy hunting ground.

After the Hitler-style Russian invasion of Afghanistan, Brown flew to Washington, D.C., on 29 December to obtain an update from Nassry on his “holy” war.

One of the most incredible facts revealed during the interviews was that the U.S. government and especially the “tooth fairy” turkeys in the U.S. State Department had not even attempted to debrief Nassry while he was in the U.S.!

What could have happened if the CIA had been allowed to covertly funnel sanitized weapons, including ground-to-air and ground-to-ground missile systems to the rebels months before the Soviet invasion? For years the Soviets have supplied any and all terrorist and/or “national liberation” movements whose targets are the countries of the free world. The peanut farmer and the gutless, incompetent pacifists that pose as his advisors have dropped the ball again (in this case the bullets) and have condemned a proud, individualistic people to a future of Russian-style genocide and oppression. SOF’s interview with Nassry follows:

SOF: What is your position with the Afghan rebels?

NASSRY: At the present time I represent 90,000 rebels in three provinces.

SOF: What is the name of the group?

NASSRY: Afghanistan Islamic Nationalist Revolutionary Council. It includes religious orders as well as nationalists.

SOF: When did you become involved in the revolution against the present regime in Afghanistan?

NASSRY: In December 1978.

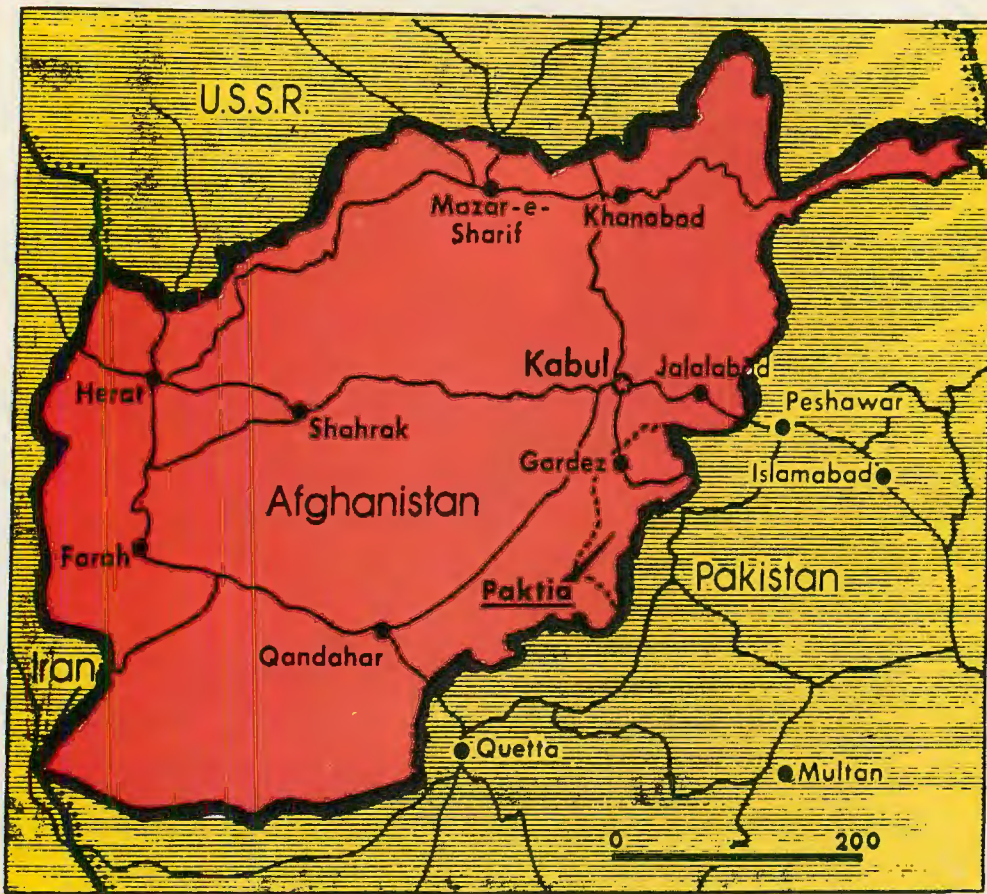
SOF: What has been the American media’s response to your efforts to obtain publicity for your cause?

NASSRY: Unfortunately, very little. American media have given us little space. The New York Times has been just



TOP: Typical Pashtun rebel tribesmen armed with FNs, 30 cal. 1917 U.S. Enfields and 303 short magazine Lee Enfields. **RIGHT:** Zia Khan Nassry receives instruction on captured Russian RPG-2. **FAR RIGHT:** Afghan rebels, some of the toughest fighting men in the world, pose with captured Russian tank. Captured armor is of limited value due to lack of fuel, maintenance capability.





MAP: shows locations of Afghanistan cities involved in the fighting.

LEFT: Zia Khan Nassry, leader of one of major Afghan rebel groups in liberated territory.

RIGHT: Typical, fierce Afghan tribesmen, who are fighting Russians.



scratching the surface, as well as the *Christian Science Monitor*, Washington *Post*, the Los Angeles *Times*. But they have reported only a third or a fourth of what's really happening. And most of that is second- or third-hand information. They have not been to the front, except for one journalist from the *Christian Science Monitor*.

SOF: Have any newspaper reporters interviewed you personally?

NASSRY: Yes, but just a few: from the New York *Times*, The Washington *Post*.

SOF: What effort have you made to obtain congressional support? You mentioned Senators Javits and Church?

NASSRY: I did meet with their senior aides on foreign policy. I asked for military assistance like anti-tank and anti-aircraft systems. They all say, "We sympathize with you." But I got nothing.

SOF: Did they explain why they would not give you aid?

NASSRY: Because at that stage they couldn't accept that we fight successfully the Soviets and their puppets. They thought it was a lost cause. In one city, a diplomat of the United States told me that the Soviet Union moves like an elephant, that it was not easy to remove them. He thought it was a lost cause and the U.S. doesn't want to back losers. We have proved them wrong — we could defeat them in their backyard with a little support. Without money or arms, with just political and moral support.

SOF: Have you made any efforts to present your case before the United Nations?

NASSRY: Yes, we sent a plea to Kurt Waldheim. No response.

SOF: How long ago?

NASSRY: September 18, 1979, the opening day of the General Assembly.

SOF: You've heard nothing from them since then?

NASSRY: No, they don't even have the courtesy to respond. They are a pack of hypocrites. The United Nations is the Mecca of hypocrisy.

SOF: Have you attempted to enlist the aid of Moslem countries?

NASSRY: We approached the government representative from Pakistan and Iran in their native lands. Their response has been negative. I went to the United Arab Emirates for financial assistance. We had talks in March [1979] and they promised that they would help. Later on I found out they wouldn't assist us because the Saudis wouldn't move.

SOF: Why not?

NASSRY: The head of the delegation said Saudi Arabia would not help because they didn't have assurance from the United States. Apparently, the decision was made here in the White House.

SOF: Have you had any direct contact with the State Department?

NASSRY: Yes.

SOF: Whom have you contacted there?

NASSRY: The person in charge of the Afghanistan desk.

SOF: What was his response?

NASSRY: His response was that their policy remained the same — to remain uninvolved.

SOF: If you are able to obtain aid, in the form of military equipment, and it becomes obvious that this military equipment is being funneled in through Pakistan, won't this cause problems for Pakistan?

NASSRY: Definitely. Pakistan has cordial relations with the Soviet Union and they do not like to antagonize the Soviets. We wouldn't want to embarrass Pakistan because we have 400,000 refugees in their land.

SOF: What kind of arms are you specifically seeking?

NASSRY: Ground-to-ground and ground-to-air systems.

SOF: What do you think are the chances that the Russians, if they see that the puppet government is seriously threatened, will intervene with regular or airborne divisions?

NASSRY: It depends on the stand the United States takes. If U.S. policymakers take a strong stand, it's up to us. If they have some sort of understanding on SALT II, if they indicate they are not going to get involved, the Russians will bring their troops.

SOF: Would you accept foreign advisors?

NASSRY: We don't feel we need foreign advisors because we have military personnel who defected from the puppet army who can lead the mechanized military movement. We might as well not fight if we have to put up with the domination of another foreign country.

SOF: I'm talking about freelance foreign advisors. For instance, snipers who could kill a Russian at a thousand meters.

NASSRY: It's not that we don't have manpower. I can't see at this stage that we would even think of utilizing foreign personnel.

SOF: Once again, I'm emphasizing foreign personnel, not government.

NASSRY: Mercenaries. Definitely not, because mercenaries would not fight with a full heart. It would give more reason for the Soviet Union to bring in more troops. For that reason it is out of the question. The people will come to us. They have a religious responsibility, whether they are from Afghanistan or not. Neighboring countries, Arab nations from Indonesia to the heart of Africa have a religious responsibility to their Moslem brothers when they are invaded by a godless power.

SOF: What opportunities are there for journalists to go to Afghanistan and report the war from your perspective, your viewpoint?

NASSRY: We offer visas to the liberated areas with escort and security. The more the people who know about our cause, the better. Unfortunately, foreign journalists cover it from the government's side.

SOF: Has there been any effort to cover it? I have not seen anything.

NASSRY: Just *Christian Science Monitor* on November 2.

SOF: Most journalists don't want to go there?

NASSRY: Yes.

SOF: Have you contacted any independent arms merchants?

NASSRY: I am researching where we can buy arms.

SOF: The main problem is funds?

NASSRY: Is funds, yes. And political support.

SOF: At this point in time, how are the Russians resupplying Kabul?

NASSRY: With airlifts.

SOF: So what you need to do is shoot down some of those transport planes.

NASSRY: Yes, but the cheapest anti-aircraft system is \$50,000. A rocket costs \$5,000. We couldn't even afford to buy a radio station — which would cost \$200,000 — to get our message out across the nation. It sounds ridiculous, but that's the way it is. We have a small radio station which was captured from the puppets, but it's very weak. And, the puppet government jams our broadcasts.

SOF: I note you have spoken before some student groups. What kind of response have you got from students?

NASSRY: They were interested. They realize that the U.S. government is not taking a strong position and they always ask what they can do.

I tell them, write to your President, write to your Senator. In the '60s they were raising Cain when the U.S. used napalm in Vietnam, but nobody is complaining about the Soviet Union using napalm and poison gas.

SOF: Where?

NASSRY: The northern region of Afghanistan.

SOF: You were quoted in a recent interview that the Saudi Arabians would rather spend their money in Las Vegas than help their Moslem brothers. Is that an accurate quote?

NASSRY: I'm talking about people in the hierarchy, the government. The royal family. The people in Saudi Arabia sympathize with us. But they are not in a position to give the sort of assistance we need.

SOF: One problem that the Afghan rebels have is that there is no coordinated command and control of all the rebel groups. Is that accurate?

NASSRY: It is accurate in a technical sense but we're not fighting each other: we have one common enemy.

SOF: If you have diverse groups and you're not operating under a coordinated plan, you could not be as effective as if you had one commander and staff directing the rebellion.

NASSRY: We have dialogues between different organizations. Small groups are merging.

SOF: What is the major difficulty in getting all the groups to organize under one leader?

NASSRY: The opposition has infiltrated KGB agents into some of these organizations to create an atmosphere of distrust, of disunity. They keep the people apart.
SOF: Give some examples of KGB infiltration.

NASSRY: They subvert a member of the family of one of the ruling hierarchy who then purposely causes dissension.

SOF: Were you able to identify these agents? What did you do to them?

NASSRY: We identified them but could not neutralize them. I cannot go to the leader of another organization and tell him, "Your nephew is a KGB agent, trained by the KGB." It would appear I'm trying to destroy their organization.

SOF: How have you been able to deal with that problem?

NASSRY: We have not been very successful.

SOF: These KGB agents are still in their positions?

NASSRY: Yes.

SOF: How many are there?

NASSRY: Even one is enough in an organization. Assuming that one of my cousins was indoctrinated by the KGB, he comes to my home, to my organization; I can't kick him out.

SOF: Are these KGB agents Afghans who were taken to Russia?

NASSRY: They are Afghans who were trained by an organization which is subordinate to the KGB in Afghanistan. Some were trained in Russia.

SOF: You reject utilizing foreign volunteers. On the other hand, using medics, in your camps, not up at the front but inside the border — that's something no one could really condemn. If somebody contacted SOF and said, "I'm a medic. I would like to go to Afghanistan," or "I would like to go to Pakistan to help Afghanistan," is that feasible?

NASSRY: It is. We can place people in clinics or refugee camps.

SOF: I don't think, frankly, you can expect any American support while Carter is president.

NASSRY: Yes, that's right. I wish President Carter would be less selective with the human rights issue and realize that the Russians and their puppets have massacred 250,000 tribesmen.

SOF: One out of every 60 people have been killed. Right?

NASSRY: Yes. Numerous villages are totally destroyed.

SOF: How are you fighting the Russian forces?

NASSRY: Primarily with ambushes.

SOF: But if you have no ground-to-ground missiles, what do you ambush with?

NASSRY: We use captured RPG-7s. In many cases our men run behind the tank and throw Molotov cocktails on the engine's air vents.

SOF: I understand you've captured a significant amount of Russian armor?

NASSRY: Yes. On one occasion tribesmen captured a number of T55s, drove them home and refused to give them to us. They felt that since they personally captured the tanks they owned them.

SOF: A case of rugged individualism. How did you get the tanks back?

NASSRY: I had to get the religious leaders to talk to the tribesmen and tell them it was their religious responsibility to give us the tanks to fight a holy war. I then gave them a receipt guaranteeing that after we toppled the government they would be rewarded. We allowed the tribesmen to keep the AKs they captured but the tanks, anti-aircraft and armored personnel carriers they had to give us.

SOF: What did you do with the tanks and the armored personnel carriers?

NASSRY: We sent them to different fronts for operations.

SOF: Are they still functioning?

NASSRY: Not many. We are short of fuel. Also, if they break down then that's it. We have no maintenance capability.

SOF: Can you estimate how many casualties you have inflicted on the Russians?

NASSRY: We don't have any accurate statistics.

SOF: How many casualties have you inflicted on the puppet government?

NASSRY: They have suffered heavy losses. We kill the leaders; the rest are given amnesty. If they embrace Islam again and admit they were deceived by the government we will accept them. As soon as we kill their commanders, they defect to us.

SOF: Can you generally describe the circumstances surrounding the defection of large units of the puppet army? What caused them to defect?

NASSRY: Our forces pinned their armored columns down on narrow roads where they couldn't move or be resupplied. There are not very many roads that they can use. They have tremendous disadvantages. And the Russian forces don't know where we are. They keep firing thousands of rounds constantly. There is some fighting during the day but most fire fights start late in the afternoon. Then we have a few hours to operate. We operate effectively maybe five to six hours out of 24. At dawn and dusk.

SOF: Are all the Russian helicopter gunships flown by Russians?

NASSRY: Yes, because they are very sophisticated. They are terrible weapons. The only thing that can knock them down is a rocket.

SOF: Have you gotten any support from Indonesia?

NASSRY: No. None of the Islam countries. None of them yet could move their embassy in Afghanistan.

SOF: Why?

NASSRY: They're scared.

SOF: I interviewed a man in Rhodesia several months ago — King Leka, the king of Albania in exile.

NASSRY: He's a friend of mine.

SOF: He said his effort to overthrow the communist dictatorship in Albania is being sponsored by the Moslem countries. Why won't they finance you when they finance somebody like him?

NASSRY: He has tremendous support in the United States. The Albanian-Americans have quite a lobby.

Publisher Brown flew to Washington, D.C. on 29 December 1979 to consult with Zia Khan Nassry and get his analysis of the Afghan situation in light of the Russian invasion. Nassry departed the following day for Europe and the Middle East in hopes of raising the support that has not been forthcoming from the U.S.

SOF: What is your analysis of the situation now?

NASSRY: Bleak. Not just what I feel but the Russians too, because we want to fight them to the end. We are determined to fight with whatever we have — whatever we can capture from them. We are not going to be scared by tanks or by numbers. We don't care if there are 10,000 or 500,000. We will continue our struggle.

SOF: Last time I spoke with you, you mentioned you thought that the Saudis or the United Arab Emirates would not support you because they did not have the okay from the U.S.

NASSRY: They did not have assurance from the U.S. The U.S. kept pussyfooting with us while the Soviet Union has been involved the past 15 months directly. They are all involved in their own political shenanigans of the 1980 election and the 50 hostages in Iran. The Russian invasion of our country is a major international disaster which in the long run will adversely affect the U.S. The U.S. is failing to keep the Russians away from the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, the oil of the Middle East and the population of India.

SOF: Have you, since the Russian invasion, obtained any more support from Islamic countries?

NASSRY: They are finally listening to us. Verbally they have come to our support. This is real war against Islamic states. The majority of them are with the western world, the democratic world. Their interest is at stake and we hope that Western Europe, the United States and Japan come around. We hope that the Chinese take a firmer stand against this vicious Soviet invasion.

SOF: Will the Islamic nations give you more support? Will they give you arms?

NASSRY: For the sake of Islam, for the preservation of Islam, they have to support us. For their own security in the future.

SOF: Has there been any change on the part of the Saudis yet?

NASSRY: We have not contacted them directly. It is in my itinerary next week to stop at Cairo, Tehran and the U.A.R. It's time to put up or shut up.

SOF: Has the U.S. State Department attempted to contact you?

NASSRY: Today is the first time I was called by the State Department. They have not offered any assistance yet. We don't want their money or Marines. We want their moral and political support. We want them to give reassurance to Pakistan, to other Moslem states which are allied with the U.S.

SOF: When I last spoke with you I asked whether you would accept volunteers. Your response then was no, because you did not want to give the Soviets provocation to increase their troops and influence in Afghanistan. Since the invasion are you reconsidering this?

NASSRY: We are seriously reconsidering it. It is time for the Moslem states and the free states to do something.

SOF: Would you accept volunteers from the west?

NASSRY: Definitely.

SOF: They would have to make their way to your tribal headquarters and say, "Here I am. I want to help."

NASSRY: They can do it. Why not? We will refer you to some people whom they can contact to make the necessary arrangements.

SOF: If someone contacts me?

NASSRY: I will give you a name in Washington.

SOF: I am going to print this in my magazine but I will not print the name. If anyone sends a resume to me, I will forward it to your representative. Would a volunteer be allowed to come into Pakistan with his own personal sidearms?

NASSRY: That is at the discretion of Pakistan authorities. However, weapons are easy to obtain in Afghanistan.



COMING SOON IN SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



Bushman Battalion: The Montagnards of South Africa. SOF staffer visits 3-1 Battalion where Force Recon, SF and LURP people would feel right at home.

AND STILL MORE TO COME

Cuban widow maker: SOF obtains exclusive interview with South African armor officer who wiped out almost 100 Cubans who made the mistake of becoming "advisers" in Angola — and he got 11 of them with a handgun.

"Let's go get ambushed." SOF staffer takes a long after-dark trip with counter-terrorist unit in southern Africa.

Ready to Go Ready to Fight

Texas' 2nd Battalion, 36th Airborne is not a typical National Guard unit. Intense and interesting training programs have produced a very high retention rate for the unit and morale — if what SOF saw at the December drill is any indication — couldn't be better. They plan, prepare and execute with spirit. And that's what Airborne is supposed to be about.

by Jim Graves



Photo: Jim Graves



Photo: Jim Graves



Photo: James Adair

F"IRE in the hole!"

"Okay."

Kaa—poow!

"Shit!"

"What was that?"

"I don't know," said SFC Gordon Rottman. "With those guys you never know."

Those guys were the demo men preparing blast holes for Rottman's OPFOR (Opposing Force) team, which would man a squad-size bunker complex for the 2nd Battalion, 143rd Infantry, 36th Airborne Brigade's December 1979 drill.

Rottman, a Special Forces Vietnam veteran and the operations and training sergeant for the battalion, and his OPFOR people were finishing up the 200-odd hours of preparation that went into making the drill go.

Some, perhaps most, National Guard units drill. The Houston-based 2nd Battalion trains — hard, imaginatively and realistically.

How Hard?

"You have to do your infantry training in the field because that's where people get cold, hungry and tired," says Lt. Col. David Heuer, the battalion commander, "but in spite of all those types of things they still have to be able to function and you really find out what kind of unit you have when you put them under those kinds of stressful conditions."

How Imaginatively?

"Let's put together four of these [artillery simulators], one of these [¼-pound C-4] and one of these [½-gallon gas containers]. That should make a nice bang.

"Any time they [the battalion] know that we're putting on a show for them they start to quiver because they don't really know what to expect," states demo man C.J. Harper, a Marine Vietnam veteran.

TOP: Assault team member moves toward entrance to underground bunker as smoke grenades turn scene eerie. **BOTTOM:** Trooper from 36th Airborne steps out of smoke cloud to take out two OPFOR team members.



How Realistically?

Rottman's OPFOR team obtained — at their own expense — obsolete Czech Army camouflage smocks, which are very similar in pattern to Russian camies. The team also purchased surplus U.S. Navy khaki caps and dyed them so that they resemble Soviet field caps. The trenches used in the December drill were laid out from plans depicted in a Defense Intelligence Agency publication on strong-point construction of a Soviet motorized rifle company and from an East German NCO's handbook.

“Knowing what the Soviets do is Rottman's hobby,” said 1st Lt. Donald Nichols, a Marine Vietnam veteran and the battalion's operations and training

TOP: OPFOR team member watches assault unit maneuver toward another part of trench system.

RIGHT: As the sun drops over Texas plains, 36th Airborne Brigade members wait at assembly point for night assault.





Photo: James Adair



Photo: James Adair

TOP: Defender waits, just out of sight, as assault team members, wearing protective masks for a chemical contaminated environment, approach. LEFT: 36th Airborne OPFOR unit wears Czech army smocks, head gear which resembles Russian field caps. Has some copies of Soviet weapons like Valmet AK and plastic RPK above.

specialist. "The OPFOR cadre at Ft. Hood calls him all the time. He gets letters from them asking, 'What do you do in this situation?' He gets phone calls from all over the country from people wanting to know what and how the Soviets do things."

A Unique Unit

The 2nd Battalion is unique in several respects.

The 2nd, based in Houston, and the 1st, based in Dallas, are the only two Airborne Infantry National Guard battalions in the United States. They are associated with the 82nd Airborne through the Army's Affiliation Program.

"What it amounts to is if the proverbial balloon goes up and we're mobilized, we would become part of the 82nd Airborne



Photo: Jim Graves

Instructor answers questions during class on Soviet mine warfare methods and minefield marking.

Division,” said Rottman. “How we would be utilized would depend on the situation. We could just stay at Bragg, while they go off and fight, and train as an airborne reaction force for use elsewhere. Or we could train airborne-qualified replacements for them, or our unit could be broken up to provide replacements for battle losses.”

The Latest Equipment

Affiliation with the 82nd produces some tremendous advantages for the 2nd Battalion, says Rottman. The unit is just one of 29 battalions in the Texas National Guard but as an airborne unit it has high priority and gets the latest equipment, much of it better than what the 82nd has.

“Our stuff is just newer than theirs [the 82nd],” said Rottman, “because we are a newer unit than they are [the Brigade was formed as the 71st Airborne Brigade in 1968]. Compared to other guard units, also, we are definitely in better shape.

“Most guard units have equipment shortages. Like 90mm recoilless rifles. A lot of units don’t have them or don’t have the full complement they are supposed to have and we’ve got Dragons. We had all our 90s but Dragons replaced the 90s, so we sent all our 90s off to other units. A lot of guard units have the old family of radios, the older models. Our communication equipment is the latest — VRC 46s, VRC 47s and PRC 77s.

“The 82nd has been hauling the same poor radios around for 15 years. Some of their stuff looks pretty sad and they have a lot of problems with it because it breaks down so much because it’s old. They are kind of jealous of us when they see our guys running around with brand new equipment.”

An additional bennie that comes out of the Affiliation Program is assistance in conducting drills.

“When we go to summer camp they’ll send down the larger part of a battalion,” said Rottman. “They provide evaluators

and it’s the type of evaluation — constructive criticism — that will help you out. They also provide opposing forces and that takes a real load off us because we only have that two weeks for intensive training. Instead of having to pull out opposing forces and instructors from our own units, they provide them.”

Intensified Training

The 82nd gets called on often by the 2nd Battalion because the unit has intensified its training since October 1976.

Rottman explained that it came as a result of the training-orientated people within the unit trying to find ways of offsetting the problems the end of the draft had caused.

“What really gets a guy in [the NG] is the desire to do something different on weekends,” explained Rottman. “That’s the theory we use in our unit. When a guy comes in we want him to be able to go back to work Monday morning and say, ‘Hey, you’re not going to believe what I did this weekend.’

“And no matter what kind of training you say you’re going to lay on at the armory if you stay at the armory what the troops wind up doing is cleaning weapons, sweeping the drill hall floor, servicing vehicles and bringing personnel records up to date. That’s all necessary but if that’s all you do you’re not going to keep people in the unit. They’ll leave in droves.

Training is sergeant’s business.

“Prior to this — and in most other guard units they still do — the officers tried to conduct the training. A lot of them just don’t have the expertise and just don’t want to put in the time. A lot of them can’t put in the time. The Army is finally going back to the concept that the NCOs do the training — that training is sergeant’s business.”

Lt. Col. Heuer had just assumed command of the 2nd Battalion and when he



Photo: Jim Graves

Instructor’s assistant holds M202A1. Reusable “flash” holds four 66mm rounds, replaces flame thrower.

was approached by Rottman about improving the training, he said, “Do it.”

“The first actual exercise we were able to put on was in October 1976 up at Sam Houston National Park,” related Rottman. “The idea was that we would go up on Friday night and set all the stuff up for just basic refresher training — individual movement techniques, camouflage and concealment, how to crawl, how to react to flares at night — real simple stuff.

“There was nothing fancy about it, it was just the fact that we had to get 26 NCOs from four different companies up there to do their lesson plans, rehearsals and preparation — all of this on their own time.”

While there was indeed nothing fancy about that first drill, the ones that have followed are.

The 2nd Battalion has conducted anti-armor training at Ft. Polk, La. There, the troops got into fox holes and had tanks drive over them. They also conducted refresher training with LAWs, satchel charges, field expedient anti-armor weapons (Molotov cocktails) and LAW sub-caliber (use of a reloadable liner that fires a 35mm rocket out of an expended LAW) at Ft. Polk.

“The weather was miserable,” stated Rottman. “Cold, like 10 above, and the whole place was just a sea of mud. The troops just ate it up. Even the colonel got in a hole.”

The 2nd Battalion also drills at Ft. Hood, Tex., where the Army’s OPFOR cadre is located and where Soviet vehicles are available. There they familiarize themselves on Russian T-54 tanks captured in the Middle East. (see “OPFOR: The Friendly Enemy,” SOF, June ’79).

“The Opposing Forces cadre up at Ft. Hood has helped us a lot,” said Rottman. “There is a lot of communication between them and our unit.

“We get down to the nitty-gritty when we teach our troops Soviet tactics. A lot of units receive the publications that are put out but it covers really high level stuff.

You know — tactics of the Soviet tank division, breakthrough tactics of the combined arms army, that sort of thing.

“A rifleman could care less about that.

“We have come up with a good deal of information on small-unit Soviet tactics so that our troops know what their fox holes look like and what their strong points look like. We try to teach little things like the Soviet trooper only fires his weapon in short full-automatic bursts; they don’t use semi-automatic like we do; what the shoulder tabs signify; what their mine markers and chemically-contaminated-area markers look like. These are the things that a rifleman needs to know.”

The army conducts Adventure Training — rubber raft trips, rappelling, etc. — and Rottman hit one of his biggest challenges in planning — trying to duplicate it.

“Everybody said, ‘How can we do that? It’s next to impossible to take a whole battalion and teach them how to rapell. You don’t have enough instructors that are qualified, you don’t have enough rope, you don’t have enough gloves and you don’t have enough places to hang the rope. The whole bit.’

“The solution was to pick out a ‘laundry list’ of things the company commanders wanted to do, split the unit into groups and borrow instructors and facilities from both military and civilian organizations.

The primary location for the 2nd Battalion’s Adventure Training in February 1979 was the Houston Fire Academy. During mandatory civil-disturbance drills in the morning the six instructors came in and described their respective events. The troops listed choices and while the drills continued, instructors divided the battalion into groups. Activities that day consisted of repelling down the Academy’s 67-foot tower; martial arts instruction; CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary-Resuscitation) training conducted by Fire Academy paramedics; stream crossing (one- and two-rope bridges, poncho rafts); demolition training; and qualification firing with a .45 on a nearby civilian pistol range.

In September 1979 it was up and away in Chinook helicopters from Elington Air Force Base to College Station, Tex., where Texas A&M has a small town set up to train firemen. The 2nd Battalion conducted an air assault with the Cadet Corps providing defensive forces.

The unit conducts jump training, about once every quarter, according to Rottman. “Since the unit went airborne the brigade has over 60,000 jumps. We’ve never had a fatality and have had only one critical injury.”

A tough nut to crack.

On 8 December, 1979, the unit held its strongpoint assault training at Ives Drop Zone, 18 miles west of Houston on a 4,000-acre military reservation.

During the morning, the 2nd Battalion and some Marine reservists from the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines of Houston, attended classes on barbed-wire obstacles (types, booby traps in, breaching), Soviet mine fields (types, marking, breaching) and Soviet strongpoint constructions (Soviet defensive techniques and assault tactics against them).

In the afternoon the companies rotated between a grenade assault/qualification course and the strongpoint assault course.

The Soviet OPFOR squad strongpoint — trenches, fighting positions, machine-gun bunkers and an underground troop shelter — fronted by wire and a mine field, flanked by demo holes and defended by Rottman’s OPFOR team, presented a tough nut for the assault units. Even tougher when the sun went down and one unit ran it at night.

It gets chilly when the sun goes down around Houston and it took so long for the last unit to rehearse for the night assault Rottman had a control problem with his OPFOR unit.

They wanted to assault the assault force at its rehearsal point! With some difficulty, Rottman held them back.

The 2nd Battalion has been known to get, as Lt. Col. Heuer calls it, “a little gung ho.”

The Great Fire

To prevent loss of stripes the perpetrators responsible for the “Great Fire Of ’77 At Ft. Chaffee” requested anonymity.

First soldier: “Everybody is fair game at summer camp. But Brigade? Nobody ever messes with them. They are god, world headquarters!”

Second soldier: “The Army has this little thing called an E-8 projector. A little box affair that fits on an A-frame, loaded with 64, 35mm CS rocket projectiles.

“It’s a one-shot thing. You set it up, pull the firing lanyard and it shoots all 64 of those things at once.

“The 36th Brigade Headquarters was set up on the side of the drop zone and we set up two of them where they would just fall short of it and tactical CS would blow into them.

“We launched two of them, putting 128 projectiles into their area in about four seconds, which immediately started brush fires and burned off approximately 45 acres of forest.”

Third trooper: “Everybody was on the radio. It went something like this: ‘We’re receiving fire. Uh, we think it’s machine-gun fire. Someone out there is firing a lot of star clusters. A brush fire is starting out there. We’re on fire. Cough-Cough. Gas! Gas!’ ”

Second soldier: “They had to cut the guy lines on their tents to pull them out. There was a lot of stuff lost then — like five miles of telephone wire, six machine-gun bolts.

“A lot of stuff didn’t actually burn in the fire, they just said it did, that’s how they got rid of it.”

Fourth soldier: “Yeah, the property books were in fantastic shape after that.”

Fifth soldier: “One of the evaluators from the 82nd Airborne said it was the most realistic training he had ever seen. One of the best rapid tactical displacements he had ever seen.”

SFC Gordon L. Rottman, operations and training sergeant for the 2nd Battalion.



Photo: Jim Graves

Sixth soldier: “It burned for two weeks. I was in a rifle platoon then and that’s how we navigated. We knew where the fire was — you could see it on the horizon — and we just steered on that.”

Third soldier: “The last Saturday, when we were going home, I was in the PX behind two of the full-time paid fire fighters there at Chaffee and all I could hear was: ‘God damn, mother-fucking Airborne’.”

Second soldier: “They went up there to fight that fire and didn’t know about the CS.”

The 2nd Battalion is doing something right.

Lt. Col. Heuer stated that the battalion has a strength of 530 out of a requirement of 738. That’s not particularly exceptional for a Texas NG unit but the retention rate is high.

Sgt. C.J. Harper twists det cord into artillery simulator preparing charges for demo holes.



Photo: Jim Graves

"I would say that of the people that we want to retain, we are retaining about 90 percent of them," said Heuer. "We're retaining only about 20 percent of those that we don't want to retain. You know, because they are not going to make good soldiers anyway. They would go AWOL and you couldn't depend on them if the balloon went up.

"Three or four years ago we had been running about 30 to 35 percent [retention rate], somewhere in that ballpark. In the last year we have increased to about 60 to 70 percent."

"First of all, I attribute it to a commitment on the part of the individual to want to be there and to want to soldier.

"Secondly, good training.

"Third, good administration on the part of the units. Good planning and organizing. If a man doesn't get paid properly, or if he injures himself on a drop or in training and if he doesn't get good medical care or if he feels he is getting screwed, then he's not going to stay in the unit no matter how good the training is.

"All of those things have to come together.

"The other part of it is you have to have good leadership," continued Heuer. "I can't stress that enough. You know a man's not going to come out here, and see good training once or twice and stay if the rest of the time he's not properly led. He wants to have confidence that if this unit ever goes to combat he's going to be led properly."

SOF asked if it surprised him that some of his people were willing to put in the time necessary to plan this type of training.

"Yeah, I guess in today's environment, where there is no draft, where there are a lot of conflicting demands on a man's time, it's both surprising and gratifying to know that there are still a lot of people who want to do it. This is just the tip of the iceberg. The people who are planning and training-oriented — like Rottman — have probably been out here five times. They have spent several weekends, on their own time, out here.

"But that's where it's at. If you don't have the preparation for it, the training can't be that good.

"Maybe we've got 30 percent of our people who are real gung ho. A solid cadre who are willing to put in the extra time. We've got another 40 percent in the middle ground and another 30 percent that I would question seriously whether we would count on them to go with us to combat."

Getting In

Since the 2nd Battalion is 208 short of full strength and since there are obviously some Heuer would like to replace, Houston area readers who are interested can sign up at:

Continued on page 80

SUPER HOLE HARPER

C.J. Harper, the main demo man for the 2nd Battalion, 36th Airborne Brigade in Houston, is like most of the other demo men you've probably all met.

They're not really whacko but sometimes they get a laugh watching other people cower in fright.

Harper, a Marine Vietnam veteran who served with the Naval Support Group in Phu Bai, spends his week as a detective chasing fugitives for the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

On weekends he goes out and does to his friends what he would probably prefer to do to the fugitives.

Harper scrounges up and prepares these neat little packages — C-4, C-3, artillery simulators, gasoline bombs, ammonium-nitrate sticks — that, as he puts it, "... help channelize the troops during assault maneuvers. We don't like them to stray."

As Harper was planting charges for the 2nd Battalion's December drill — an assault on a Soviet squad-size bunker complex — he asked if we wanted a special hole — for superior photographic effect.

"We could put about four simulators and some WP in one," suggested Harper.

"Is that what's in that hole?"

"No, not now, but tonight when it gets dark we thought we would set you up a super hole. Heh-heh, a nuclear hole," cackled Harper.

"You know of course that you're going to make about a dozen guys shit in their pants tomorrow," someone said.

"Is that all," said Harper. "I had planned on so many more than that."

Finding the explosives they need to produce those super holes is one of Harper's responsibilities for the 2nd Battalion. His source is former Army infantry Command Sgt. Maj. Buddy French, owner of French Well Services after his retirement.

"He blows wells in Texas and Louisiana and I've done some commercial demo work for him on a job basis," said Harper, "where his regular demo people weren't available."

"Or won't do it," said a bystander. "Do what! No way!"

"That has been the case on three occasions," admitted Harper. "Some of that shit can be dangerous. You cut a piece of casing, 3,000 feet down where you have natural gas and you're putting your buns on the line."

"You have to be fast on your feet," chipped in the bystander.

"Yeah, either that or lots of safety fuse," said Harper. "Or get a long-way away: like Houston from New Orleans."

French in return provides explosives — C-4, C-3, ammonium nitrate, det cord and caps — to Harper for use on NG exercises.

However, some of the explosives are old. The C-3 used in December dated from 1943. The artillery simulators obtained from military sources dated from 1969 and as a result the squib charges were often defective.

To insure detonation, Harper takes careful steps when setting the charges: giving the doubtful explosives extra wraps of det cord and using C-63 commercial booster caps to get sure center-fire detonation.

Harper is not as reckless as he jokes, since he uses what he calls the "half-ass crimping technique."

"If you crimp the caps behind you and it goes off it's awful nasty to sit down for awhile but it grows back. Lumpy, but it grows back. It's better than getting an all-new face and set of teeth."

Harper is not always so careful about the faces of his targets.

"We found a cow out here when we were running a squad assault course," explained Harper. "It hadn't been dead that long because the grass in its stomach was still green.

"We hooked a cable onto the horns and dragged it behind a jeep to the middle of the assault course.

"Where the troops had to assault across an open pipe-line area, we planted the cow with M110 artillery simulators inside it so it would blow the cow, grass and other stuff all over the troops as they were running across.

"It kinda gave an extra added touch as to what a battlefield would be like. As you know they aren't the nicest of places anyway.

"When the first one cooked off, a guy got some intestines right in the face and the whole world went to pieces.

"What they learned — the fire team leaders and squad leaders — was the problems of command and control under fire when bad things are happening.

"It was a little gross for some of them but it gave them a real good lesson.

"And the ones that didn't like beef, still don't like it."

Make that demo men too, C.J.

—Jim Graves

U.S. 5.56mm M14

One of a Kind

by Sgt. Gary Paul Johnston

BULL, you say? There was never such a rifle? Well, officially you're right, but in the long evolution of U.S. military weapons, there was undertaken a project to produce the M14 rifle in 5.56x45mm, and at least one was made.

The 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge and weapons for it have long been a special interest of mine. The number of different NATO-round experiments throughout the world, based on the original T65 case, boggles one's mind. The case has been necked to 7mm, 6mm and .22 cal., to name but a few. It was probably tested in standard NATO rifles, such as the U.S. M14, long after the 7.62mm NATO cartridge was adopted.

Almost completely unknown, however, is the fact that when M14 production was nearing an end, and it was obvious that the M16 rifle was here to stay, there came an idea to produce the M14 in the caliber of the new rifle — 5.56x45mm, or .223.

We were, after all, tooled up to produce the M14, and it was of a proven design. If production of it could continue in 5.56mm, maybe soldiers and Marines might be able to have a rifle that looked like a rifle rather than a Mattel toy.

STANDARD M14 RECEIVER

The rifle I examined shows much improvisation and was probably the first — if not the only — one made. The receiver appears to be a standard M14, except there is no provision for a magazine guide.

The only other noticeable difference in the receiver is an aluminum filler block at the rear of the magazine well which holds the smaller magazine forward. The magazine catch is proportionately longer to engage it.

M16 MAGAZINE

The magazine with the rifle was a converted M16 mag. with a notch milled in the rear, and a hole in the front to allow it to swing in and out as does a regular M14 magazine. The converted mag. also functions in the M16, which makes sense logically.

M14 BARREL

The barrel is an M14 barrel, bored and chambered for 5.56mm. The bolt shows much alteration, having a smaller face, a special extractor and a flat-ended ejector.

The underside of the bolt has been narrowed to allow it to pass through the closer lips of the 5.56mm magazine. All other parts appear to be standard M14.

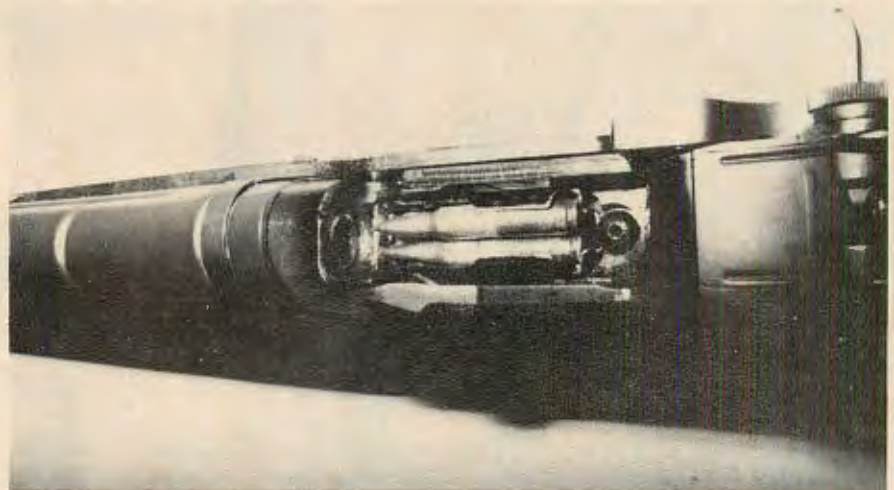
The rifle showed considerable use. I test fired it and it functioned only about 75 percent of the time in both semi- and full-auto positions. Rate of fire seemed to be about 550 rpm and although I did not bench rest the rifle, accuracy appeared excellent.

Controllability on full auto was also excellent. The rifle weighed just under nine pounds.

"INTERESTING" EXPERIMENT

Military inspectors and personnel witnessed the testing of this rifle and found it "interesting." Commitment to the M16 project was so heavy, however, that there was probably never a chance that the M14 would be made in 5.56mm.

But who knows? Maybe someone will pick up this idea and bring a full-size battle weapon out in this caliber. They could call it the Maxi 14. People will buy just about anything.



ABOVE: Top view with converted M16 mag. inserted. Filler block can be seen to rear. Note absence of clip guide.

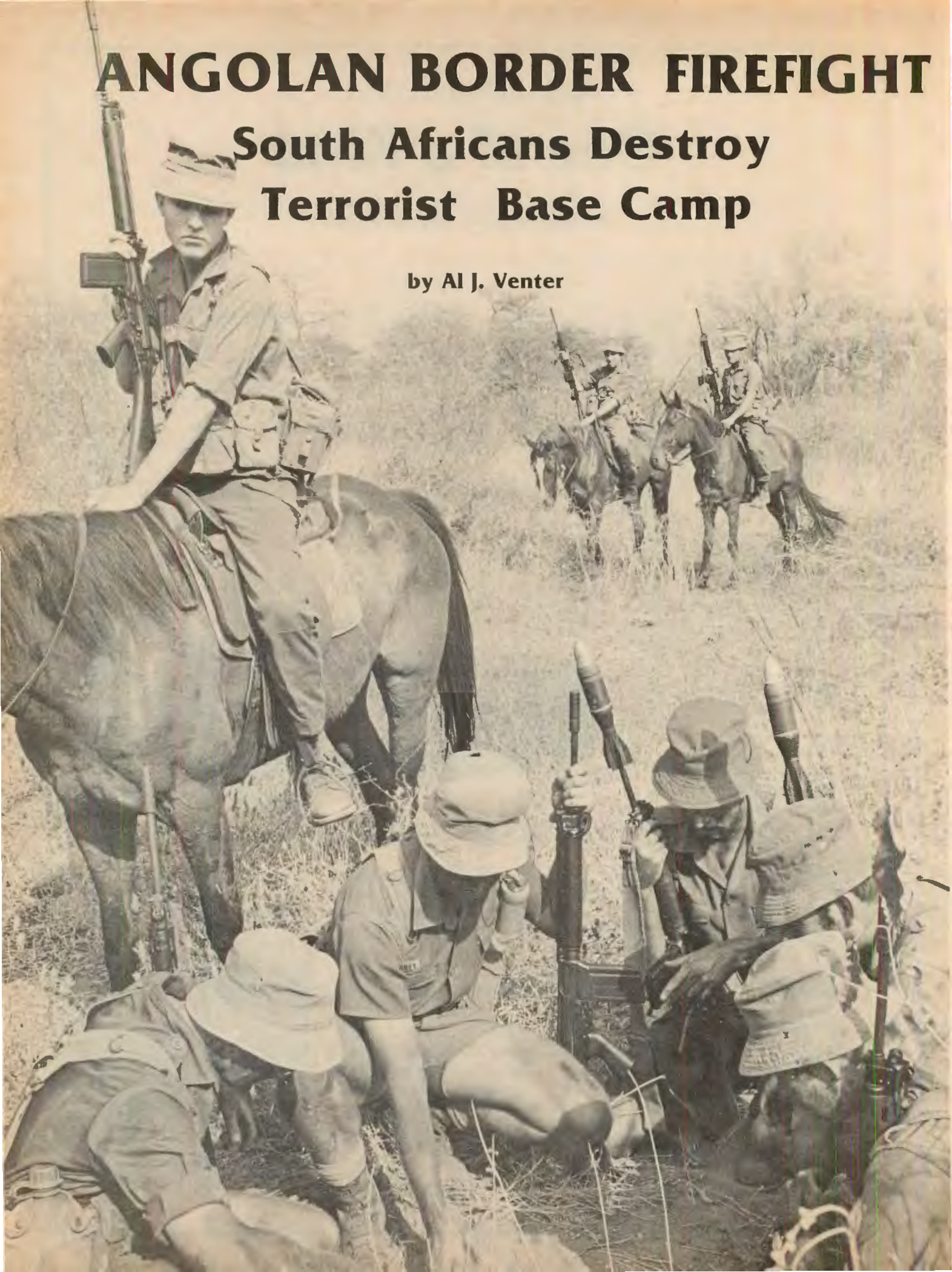
RIGHT: Author firing experimental M14 full auto. Note four cartridge cases. With converted M16 magazine inserted, filler block can be seen at rear.



ANGOLAN BORDER FIREFIGHT

South Africans Destroy Terrorist Base Camp

by Al J. Venter



SOUTH African Army Capt. Mike Jacobs is a quiet-spoken man, not readily given to enthusiasm, even about events which almost cost him his life.

But when he talks about those eight most eventful minutes of his combat career, his eyes narrow and his voice lowers a pitch or two. Capt. Jacobs belongs to the old school of military tradition that one still finds among some of the German community in Southwest Africa where deeds speak louder than words.

It took some days to get the story out of Capt. Jacobs whom I visited at his operational home base near the Angolan border. By the time I'd pieced it together it had the makings of an excellent modern-day film scenario.

As he says, most contacts with terrorists last a minute or two; that seems like half a day when fire is matched with fire: "My eight minutes were almost half a lifetime."

"We were gaining steadily."

The way Capt. Jacobs tells it, his unit of horsemen and trackers on the ground had been on an insurgent spoor for most of the afternoon. "The boys were fit. They were also keen and seemed to be gaining steadily."

Apparently, this particular terrorist group had crossed the border into Ovamboland in Southwest Africa from nearby Angola some days previously. Much of their time in Ovamboland, they had holed up in isolated *kraals* during the day, fighting their war and proselytizing the locals with Marxist dogma at night. They drew attention to themselves earlier when one of the landmines they'd laid was detonated by a South African army vehicle.

Jacobs and his specialist group of trackers were called in to search for this enemy and destroy him.

The going was fast until about four in the afternoon. Shadows had lengthened when suddenly the terrorist spoor split in two, making it possible for them to estimate that they were on trailing a group of about a dozen armed men. When they "bombshelled," half the terrorists went one way and half the other.

The youthful captain took the obvious course; he split his patrol in half and led his group along the likeliest escape route — toward the Angola border.

Soon the follow-up group picked up tracks again and, moving at half-jog, the men fell into the routine of checking against anti-tracking measures and other diversions. Nerves were taut; experience had shown the real possibility of an ambush at that time of day.



ABOVE: The black face of war along the South West African border with Angola. More and more blacks are becoming involved in this often vicious internecine struggle.

LEFT: Venerable 1919 Browning .30 cal. LMG employed by South African forces near Angolan border.





LEFT: Break for the dogs at the hottest part of day during follow-up operation.

ABOVE: Standing by the insignia of South West Africa crack Special Operations group, a squad of trackers prepares for an operation in the bush.



CENTER: Night operations form a vital adjunct to the campaign. Although ambush possibilities are more marked, troops operating during dark hours keep the enemy on the move longer. The canine element precludes most surprise situations.



BELOW: When water runs short, you try to make your own — the “solar still” is in wide use with some of the tracking elements who cannot carry adequate supplies on operations.

Then the captain did the unexpected. For no apparent reason, he halted his men and signaled the horsemen to dismount.

“I don’t really know why I did it. It was just a gut feeling even though one of my African trackers — a man of great experience — argued that the terrorists were still ‘a good way ahead.’

“But something in my bones told me all was not right. I ordered one of the men to set up a radio position and make contact with base.” Seconds later, as the group moved up in extended formation, the first crack of automatic fire shattered the late afternoon quiet. One of the terrorists waiting in ambush had opened up prematurely; he warned the South Africans of the enemy position.



“Naturally, our boys answered independently. We spared nothing! Obviously, this was not what had been anticipated for the error was very much theirs.”

Seconds later, the insurgents broke and ran. For the first time, the attackers spotted something different in the terrorist ranks, a white man with longish hair cradling an AKM carbine. He wore the distinctive olive-green uniform of members of Cuba’s “Voluntary Army in Africa.”

“We didn’t manage to stop any of them. But the light was failing and we had little opportunity to plan some kind of tactic, so we pushed ahead, often crouching as we ran and fired,” he told me.

That, the captain acknowledged, was a mistake. “We must have run several hundred meters before we found ourselves in the middle of a patch of open ground. The terrorists were at the far end and they had

The shadow of death is never far away in the terr war of South West Africa. Here a South African patrol plays a boring, but potentially deadly game of hide-and-seek.

all the cover they needed from our onslaught. Then *they* let us have it!”

As Capt. Jacobs remembers it, that part of the action lasted eight long minutes. His only cover was blades of grass that merely obscured vision. Nothing else.

His men returned fire as and when they could, but each time one lifted his head, he attracted a barrage of hot steel and tracers. Meanwhile, the captain could hear the Cuban officer issuing instructions to his group as they moved from one position to another in order to disorient the South Africans.

Quickly Jacobs made an estimate of the situation. He had almost a dozen men lying trapped on open ground, a custom-

made “Death’s Acre” for the terrorists. Behind him — several hundred meters away — was his only link with the outside world and his own back-up forces: the radio. But the operator could not know what trouble they were in at that moment. He could only know that a battle was taking place. Jacob’s own orders had been explicit: “You stay with the set; I’ll pass instructions on to you.”

Jacobs was aware that base had been informed of their contact; he had heard the man shouting it over the intercom. But as far as Command was concerned, they could have been anywhere within the few hundred square kilometers in which they had been deployed earlier. He had to get a grid bearing to them — terrorist fire picked up again.

Closest to the captain lay the man who had followed in his tracks for most of the day. Diminutive Cpl. “Klasie” Claassens was very much a product of the same tradition as Jacobs, tough, resilient, and with a pair of eyes trained to spot a switch of grass lying unnaturally against the wind. Their gaze met briefly; then the captain beckoned with his hand toward the rear:

“The radio. Can take a chance? We’ve got to get someone back there.”

Cpl. “Klasie” did not answer immediately. He turned his head and looked toward the route he would have to cover — almost 100 meters of open ground between himself and comparative safety. Expressionlessly he nodded once, before saying, in Afrikaans, “*Ek moet dit maar waag, Kaptein* (I must venture it, captain).”

The captain whispered hurriedly to his men lying closest to him; they passed it on to their far flank: give fire cover the moment Cpl. Claassens moves. There was no need to say more; the men knew the routine as he had explained it to them in theory. Now it was for real.

Then Claassens moved. In a single coordinated motion — like a demon possessed — he was on his feet and surging away toward cover on the far side of the clearing. Enemy fire picked up immediately and followed his footsteps as he ducked, stumbled, side-stepped, bucked and ran to safety.

His own group gave supporting fire in a desperate attempt to keep enemy heads down. Volley after volley of automatic fire churned up clods of dry pan clay all around the fleeing troopie. Then, quite suddenly, Claassens tripped and fell; he had only another 10 meters to go.

“Terrorist fire homed in.”

“It was terrible,” said the captain. “Our hearts stopped for seconds, I’m sure . . . almost there and then not quite. What made it worse was that terrorist fire was now homing in on him. All we could do was stare. So bloody hopeless. Frustrating.”



ABOVE: Mounted unit follows trackers through difficult bush country. Trackers work in conjunction with dogs and often motorcycles.

RIGHT: Evening break during operations. Troops eat early and move on in half-light to secure night positions when not on a track.



But young Cpl. Claassens *did* get up again. No one could tell at that moment whether he was wounded or not as he hurled himself across those last few paces of open ground. AK tracers had already set some of the grass alight where he had fallen; it burned easily in the dry winter evening light.

The story ended not long afterwards when Claassens was able to call in a helicopter strike force. Several nearby units had been following the radio contact and a direction bearing had brought the choppers closer to the action as the tracker provided the final co-ordinates. Claassens had come through the ordeal with bruises and scratches and several skin burns where bullets had grazed his body but not entered it.

In the ensuing fire-fight, two terrorists were killed. Subsequent bloodspoor traces indicated that at least one other had been wounded. Of the Cuban commander, there was no trace.

Capt. Jacobs' men had not taken a single casualty. Their bumps and bruises provided a good story for the men back at base and in the past few months the incident has become something of a legend among the troops of South West Africa Specialist Unit. One side effect of this event is that this young officer has no shortage of takers when he calls for volunteers to accompany him on a "search and destroy" mission.

"We tracked them to the bush."

It was also Jacobs' unit that later discovered a terrorist temporary base in the area adjacent to where they had been operating. Like most things in this unpredictable struggle, the discovery was fortuitous. Terrorists had been operating in the central regions of Ovambo for some time. Security forces knew they were there, but although they monitored movement in a fairly large area of *kraals* and villages, they could find nothing.

Patrols into outlying areas produced the same results until Jacobs and his men were brought in.

Their tracks took them into a fairly dense area of bush that had been thoroughly scoured from the air but had produced no results whatever. But looking at the pattern of attacks in the region, the young captain was certain there was a tie-up. It was all too coincidental.

So he took his men, found the tracks he was looking for and after carefully sifting all possibilities, discovered a fully-equipped and apparently very well-used terrorist temporary base — or TB as it is known in local military jargon. Jacobs hit the jackpot.

The camp contained not only a cache of weapons, explosives and landmines, it also contained medical bags, propaganda pamphlets and a variety of other insurgent items. Its original occupants had obviously been observing the progress of the South Africans. They fled shortly before

the patrol reached them, taking their personal weapons with them.

The chase was on. Other security force units were called in on a follow-up operation while Capt. Jacobs sifted through the enemy camp.

The TB was camouflaged from the air.



Branches had been used to cover the sleeping, recreational and eating areas from above. Each terrorist — there must have been a dozen of them — had his own specially-prepared sleeping position which was dug in as a precaution against surprise attack. At several points on the periphery,

vantage positions had been established.

What was interesting was that there was only one real approach to the position, which provided additional security.

The arms cache contained a variety of landmines, including T-46s and T-57s (Russian) and East German Cheese

Mines. Other items included RPG-7 rockets and their warheads as well as a crate of POM-Z anti-personnel bombs which are being increasingly deployed in booby-trap configurations. Several of these had been laid with trip wires across the main access track. They were spotted before they were accidentally detonated.

As Jacobs says: "When you walk into an area like that, you don't trust a twig that lies askew; it might be connected to a trip wire."

Also in the camp were several newly-made forked sticks prepared with electric flex for detonating landmines.

The medical bag which I was able to inspect was obviously equipped for war: splints, blood plasma bags, morphine ampules, battle dressings and a variety of medicines for tropical use, including some with directions printed in English from Sweden — a gift of the United Nations-sponsored World Health Organization! The cache contained enough drugs to stock an infirmary.

Significant too was the fact that among the personal effects remaining behind was one set of civilian clothes for each of the original terrorists. These were apparently used by them during the day when they merged with the local populace; uniforms were put on toward dark. It was the old Mao dictum all over again: "the guerrilla should merge with the people of the land like the fish in water."

Tough going for SWAPO.

Meanwhile, the war continues. Terrorists still cross the border into the northern reaches of South West Africa from Angola. But even the locals with whom they wish to associate are becoming weary of the conflict, the endless surveillance by both sides, indiscriminate killing on the part of SWAPO in a desperate bid to impose its will, the ever-present landmines, ambushes, nightly visits which could result in having one's face pulverized — or worse, and the omnipresent fear that next time it could be one's own body that is moved to the government mortuary at Oshikati for identification.

For this — and other — reasons, the going for the average SWAPO terrorist is becoming tougher. His ranks are being continually thinned as a consequence of reaction by South African security forces.

Terrorists will continue to enter South West Africa. The difference today is that it's no longer a foregone conclusion that they will leave again.

Speak to some of the South African troops that have come back from Ovamboland in recent months; they'll tell you the same story.

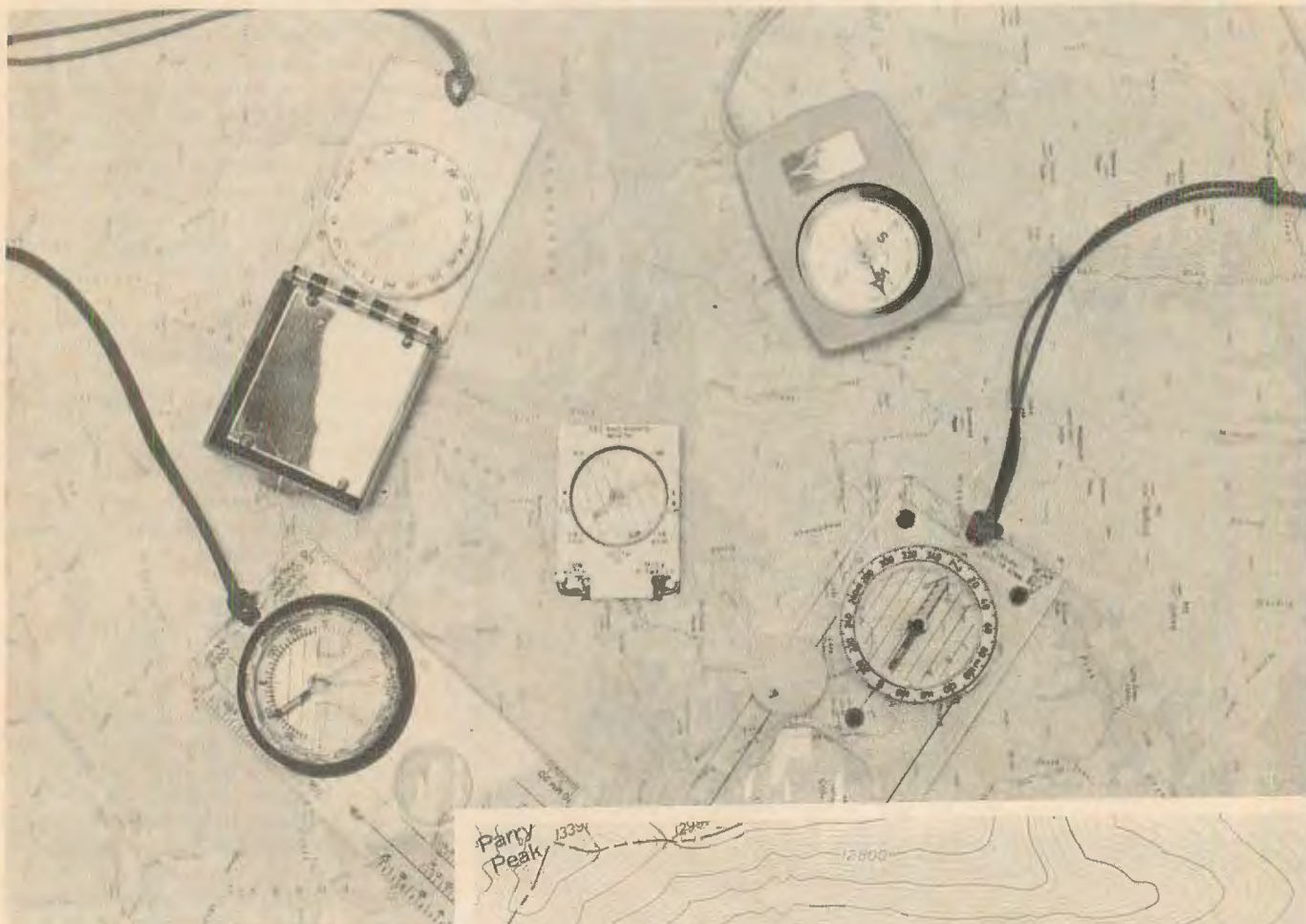


Dog patrol in the arid bush country of northern South West Africa. Dogs are used successfully against terrorist units in follow-up operations.



'I WANT OUTTA HERE!'

Using Map and Compass



Selection of good compasses. Top (left to right): Silva Type 16, Suunto code KB-20/360R; middle: Silva Huntsman (can be pinned to jacket); bottom: Suunto RA-69 and Silva Type 46. Compasses courtesy of Eastern Mountain Sports, Denver, Colo.



Figure 3

by John Griffith

MANY people are mystified by maps and compasses, greatly exaggerating the complexity of the subject. If approached logically, there is no reason why anyone should experience difficulty in using a map and compass.

In its simplest form, a compass is a magnetized needle, suspended so it can

turn on its axis toward the magnetic north pole. The end of the needle which indicates north is marked. The face of the compass will at least be marked to show the four cardinal directions of north, south, east and west.

For precision, one should select a compass that is also marked in degrees. It

should have a movable outer ring and a sighting device. While one can live without it, I recommend a compass with a clear plastic base plate. A base plate makes the compass a more complete tool for use with a map.

It is important to understand that a compass needle indicates the magnetic

Compare photo with map (Figure 3) to clarify relationship between map and land. Photo shows ridge (left) and summit (center) of Mt. Eva, slope (right) of Parry Peak. Map is part of Empire Quadrangle (near Empire, Colo.), USGS topographic map.



north pole and not true north. Although magnetic north is in the same direction as true north in some areas, most places show a considerable difference between compass-indicated north and true north. This difference is called declination. In the United States, declination ranges from about 20 degrees west in Maine to about 30 degrees east in Alaska. This means a compass will point 20 degrees west of north in Maine and 30 degrees east of north in Alaska. (See Figure 1.)

SOURCES: MAP AND COMPASS

THE most important tool in navigation is the compass. If one has a compass he can make a map. There are a great variety of compasses available. A compass should be small enough to be carried easily. It must be easy to read. The dial should be marked every 2 degrees with every 20 degrees numbered. Avoid "starter" compasses as they are too basic and will be outgrown quickly.

While there are many excellent compasses, my preference is the Silva Type 16. This compass has the base plate and movable dial of all Silvas. A sight/mirror device which allows simultaneous observation of a landmark and the compass needle is a distinguishing characteristic of this instrument. The compass is well-made and easy to use. The price is about \$16.

Compasses are available from most sporting goods and back-packing stores. It is sometimes difficult to find a good compass. One very good mail order source is Eastern Mountain Sports Inc., Dept. SOF, Vose Farm Road, Peterborough, NH 03458. Their catalog has a good selection of compasses and other outdoors items. They can be trusted to give good service.

Get a good compass. One's life depends on a compass which functions properly at all times.

There are several government sources for maps. Topographic maps for the United States are available from the U.S. Geological Survey.

To order maps of areas east of Mississippi, including Minnesota, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, write to Branch of Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, 1200 Eads Street, Arlington, VA 22202.

Maps for areas west of the Mississippi, including Alaska, Louisiana, American Samoa and Hawaii are ordered from the Branch of Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.

World maps published by the CIA are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, North Capitol and H Sts., NW, Washington, DC 20402.

World maps published by the Defense Mapping Agency are available from the U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Mapping Agency, Topographic Center, Attn: Code 55500, Washington, DC 20315.—J.G.

Declination

If one corrects for it, declination is not a problem. Most maps made for serious use have some indication of declination printed on the border to simplify compensation for declination.

Figure 2 illustrates this technique. In the bottom left corner of the map N indicates true north; MN shows magnetic north — 20 degrees east of true north. Twenty degrees east is the declination for this area.

The objective in this exercise is to plot a course from the railroad crossing to the point where the river enters the lake. Based on true north the course is 290 degrees, but if one follows this compass course, he will miss the lake entirely. The 20-degree-east declination must be subtracted from the true course to obtain the correct compass course. In this case, to follow a true course of 290 degrees the proper compass course is 290 minus 20 or 270 degrees.



Map properly oriented with compass. Note the base plate is aligned with declination indicator. True north is signified by line and star to left of base plate. All USGS topographic maps are so marked.

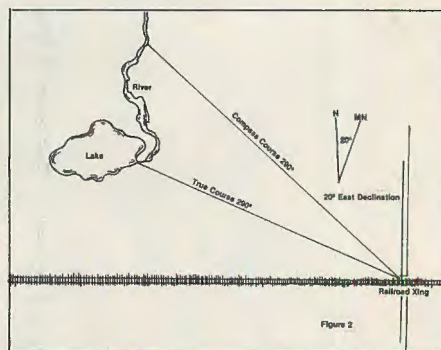
Silva Model 16 compass taking sighting on landmark. While notch above mirror is aligned with landmark, dial and needle indicate magnetic north. Compass bearing is 130 degrees.

To convert from true north to compass north with easterly declination one must subtract the degree of declination. To convert from compass to true, add the declination. To convert from true to compass with westerly declination, add the degree of declination; to convert from compass to true, subtract. See the chart for further clarification.

When working with a map, one can modify it to reduce the effort needed to compensate for declination. Take the map and draw parallel lines which are oriented with the magnetic north-south axis. These lines should be spaced about an inch apart, extending entirely across the map.

Most of the world has been mapped. Well-developed countries have very complete maps but maps from other areas may be incomplete and or misleading.

All maps have certain similarities. They indicate what direction is true north.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Griffith, son of a licensed guide, has been an outdoorsman all his life. He first became interested in maps in grade school when he won a blue ribbon for a seventh grade science fair mapping project. Prior to his service in the U.S. Air Force (1974-78), he held a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation guide's license. Now a Denver, Colo., resident, Griffith, a free-lance photographer and writer, has transferred his map-reading skills from the Adirondacks to the Rockies, as his use of the photograph of Mt. Eva and Parry Peak near Empire, Colo., shows.

—M.L. Jones

TO COMPENSATE FOR DECLINATION

FIGURE 1

Direction of Declination

West Declination

East Declination

Conversion from True to Compass

Add declination to true course.

Subtract declination from true course.

Conversion from Compass to True

Subtract declination from compass course.

Add declination to compass course.

Many also show the degree and direction of declination. Maps are made to scale; they show the relationship between their distances and actual distances. For example, one inch on the map may equal one mile in the field. Frequently a map has a key that explains the meaning of its different symbols.

Topographic Maps

Topographic maps are best for traveling on the ground. Good topo maps show all details present when the map was made in the area covered. They show both man-made features and the land's physical characteristics.

Most obvious on a topographic map is the proliferation of thin brown lines twisting across it. These are contour lines. They indicate the actual shape and elevation above sea level. Contour lines are imaginary lines that maintain a constant altitude drawn on the earth. While the space between them varies, altitude remains constant. The difference in altitude between the lines is called the contour interval.

Contour lines

On the United States Geological Survey map in Figure 3, the contour interval is 40 feet. Contour bears no relationship to horizontal distance. The closeness of the contour lines indicates steepness of land. Note that every fifth line is printed more heavily. This line, called an index line, has its altitude marked on it to make it easier to understand the relationship between each contour line and its altitude.

The best way to understand the relationship between a topographic map and the land it represents is to get a map and go to the area it covers. After comparing the map to the land, their relationship becomes obvious.

Routes

If one has a specific objective in mind, the first step in getting there is to obtain a map of the area. Locate a starting point and objective on the map. With a topographic map, one can determine the best route to a destination. This route may not be the most direct. Sometimes the most direct path may cross a cliff or a lake. By using a topo map, one can avoid such barriers.

Once the route is plotted on the map, one can determine the compass bearings to be followed. Now the base plate and movable dial become useful. Ignore the compass needle. Use the compass as a protractor to determine the bearing of the chosen route in degrees. Place the edge of the base plate parallel to the route plotted on the map. Turn the dial so that its north marking points towards magnetic north. (This is not difficult if the guide lines mentioned earlier have been drawn.)

Compass Bearings

With the dial turned north, the compass bearing will appear over the direction-of-travel line. This line goes through the center of the base. In most cases, the direction-of-travel line has an arrow at one end to insure that one follows the proper direction. To actually follow the required compass bearing while in the field, one needs to use the compass needle.

Set the required bearing over the direction-of-travel line. Turn the entire compass until the dial's north marking is aligned with the needle's north marking. Walk in the direction shown by the direction-of-travel line. As long as the north marking of the dial and the needle coincide, the direction-of-travel line will point the way.

The above directions suffice for most use. To travel a really precise route requires slightly more work. Here the compass sight comes into play. There are several different types of sighting devices. Although their details differ, they all have the ability to align the compass with a landmark, making it possible to determine the exact direction of an object from the compass.

Landmarks

To follow a precise route, use the compass to sight a landmark directly on the route of travel. Go to the landmark. There pick another landmark also on the route. Go to that landmark and continue to leap-frog from landmark to landmark until the destination is reached.

Be sure to pick landmarks so distinctive they can't be missed when arriving at them. It is a good idea to pick something visible for the entire time one is moving toward it. By using this technique and by often referring to a map it is difficult to get lost.

Orientation

To better understand the relationship between the map and the area it represents, one must orient the map. Use the compass to find north. Align the north marking on the dial with the direction-of-travel line on the base plate. Keep the compass pointed north and place it on the map. Turn the map so the north-south guide lines already drawn on it are parallel to the edge of the base plate. The map is now positioned in proper relationship to the area it shows. Now it is easier to tell from the map exactly what the surrounding area is like.

If lost or confused, it may still be possible to determine position by comparing a properly oriented map to the surroundings. It is sometimes difficult to find a position with this method. The most accurate way of determining position is to plot compass bearings of landmarks on

the map. Use two visible and identified landmarks, such as mountain tops, to do this.

Use the sight to align the compass with the first landmark. Turn the dial so that the north indication on the dial is aligned with the needle. Look over the direction-of-travel line. The compass bearing to the landmark will appear. Without changing any compass settings, get the map out. Orient it, then place the base plate over the center of the landmark. Double check to see that the map is still oriented and that the compass needle and north marking on the dial are still aligned. Draw a line along the base plate to well beyond one's estimated position to plot the bearing from one's position to the first landmark.

Find a second landmark. Plot the bearing from that landmark on the map. One's position is where the two lines intersect. This system's accuracy depends entirely on how careful the user is.

Final Points

A few final points should be mentioned. First, one should trust the compass. Beware of overcast days. On days when the sun can't be seen it is easy to become convinced that the compass is wrong. I have taken very long walks in big circles because I knew more than the compass. Of course I never get lost, only confused.

When using the compass, keep it away from metal but do not go to extremes. I recently did some tests to determine how great a deviation is caused by the proximity of metal, using objects ranging from the barrel of a revolver to a four-wheel-drive truck. While each object caused extreme deviations of up to 180 degrees, the compass had to be within one foot of it to show any effect.

While it is rare, occasionally a compass won't point north at all! I had one which pointed north when it was new but after a while it started to point south. Storing a compass near a magnet can cause this reversal.

Many lives have been lost because some people have not learned how to use their maps and compasses properly. It is easy to become proficient in their use. The old saying, "practice makes perfect," is as important in this as in any skill.

The best practice is to go exploring with a map and compass. Plot courses on the map and follow them as closely as possible. Practice finding specific locations. Gain as much experience in daylight navigation as possible. Once daylight travel is easy, try it at night. A dark, moonless, starless night is best. This is when one finds just how good he really is.

The map and compass are tools. They can't think for themselves. They will not automatically keep one from getting lost. That depends on the person using them.



MY flak jacket was beginning to feel like it was permanently attached to my skin. We had discarded the green, sweat-encrusted T-shirts the night before, and as we began our 72nd hour of routine patrol, I found myself regretting what I had done. As March 1972 rolled to an end, our chances of being one of the last military police patrols in Saigon increased, so I kept agreeing to just one more 12-hour shift. If we returned to headquarters for some sleep, our vehicle would be claimed by two fresh MPs and we might end up spending our last day in Vietnam guarding some ammo dump or empty compound.

My helmet flew off and clattered across the blacktop as my partner stomped down on the brakes and our jeep skidded to a stop.

"Did you hear that?" he whispered, looking over his right shoulder. I strained to sort out the night noises but a thousand crickets made the task impossible.

"Hear what?"

Without answering, he rammed the gears into reverse and the tires squealed 50 feet back up the block. We came to a sudden stop at the entrance to a dark alley.

"You're a real goddamn jerk, you know that?" I started. "I'm the only guy in the whole company who puts up with this crap, and..."

A woman's scream sliced through the stillness, and we automatically drew our .45s, jumped from the jeep, and bolted down the narrow alley. Every dozen feet we would trade the lead: the rear man covering the advancing MP with a straight-armed fanning motion of his weapon, and I found myself in the rear as we came upon movement in the darkness, 30 feet ahead. There was no moon, but I could see my partner in the dim light radiating from a score of distant flares drifting beyond the edge of the city. He was waving me up to his location.

Separated by an arm's length, we slowly advanced on the four American GIs who had torn the clothes off a young Vietnamese woman and had her pinned to the ground. Struggling violently, her legs kicking wildly in the air, she was no match for them.

"Okay boys!" I yelled as we charged the group. "The fun's over!" My partner switched on his flashlight, and we both grabbed the nearest head of hair and jerked its owner to his feet, then sent him crashing against the tin walls of the tenements that rose up all around us. One of the soldiers started yelling the way they do in the karate tournaments, but my partner smashed his night stick down onto the GI's forehead, and he sank to the ground unconscious.

The fourth man rose to his feet and tried to run, but his trousers tangled below his knees and sent him flopping to the dirt. We quickly frisked the first two GIs, handcuffed their right ankles to-

Saigon's Deadly Streets

MP Recounts Crime in Crumbling City

Text & Photos by Nick Uhernik



gether, then radioed for a Vietnamese police jeep.

I took out my notebook and pen, but found it hard to start my report as I stared down at the woman lying motionless at my feet. She was half on the pavement and half in the dirt, and as blood slowly trickled from the corners of her mouth, her eyes remained fixed on the stars above. My partner finally draped a blanket over her. He asked her for some ID, but her face was a mask of shock and horror, and she could not move her lips to speak. She only whimpered slightly, her body trembling as she clutched at the blanket. I folded my arms and leaned back against a vendor's wagon, eyeing my partner. He looked down at the girl, then back at me and slowly shook his head.

An hour later we resumed patrol and I took my turn behind the wheel. My partner tossed his helmet in the back seat and peeled off his flak jacket. He folded it up like a cardboard pillow and propped it up against his seat, then lay back and closed his eyes.

"Hey, hero," I said, "why don't you put some of that stuff back on. The war ain't over yet, you know."

"Sure it is," he countered, "A few more days and we'll be home free."

"Look at it this way: There's over three million Vietnamese in this town. That means at least 3,000 VC. You wanna be the last MP killed in Vietnam?" He opened his eyes and glanced over at me, then reached back and grabbed his helmet.

"Happy now?" he asked as he pulled it

down over his eyes.

"Yeah, and what about your..." A small motorscooter had pulled up beside us as we cruised down Tu-Do Street at 30 m.p.h. The two slender women on it, their legs balanced delicately over the left side, directed obscene gestures at us, then sped ahead and turned right at the first intersection.

"Did you get that license number?" I asked.

"Don't worry about it," he answered calmly. "They were just looking for a little action. You probably would have stacked us up anyway in a chase, and I'm too short for that crap."

We stopped at a corner restaurant and spoke briefly with the Chinese owner, an old lady from Cholon whose sons had all died in the war. She spoke proudly of her three daughters who worked downtown as civil servants, but we knew they were prostitutes working the bars of Truman Key.

The latest orders at briefing were to mingle with the Vietnamese. Get to know the shop owners and frequent the sidewalk vendors. So we complimented the old lady on her small slabs of baked dog meat, and after washing them down with a year-old Coke, resumed routine patrol.

It wasn't long before I noticed a Honda had been following us for the last few blocks. I brought it to my partner's attention, but before we could formulate a plan of action, the cycle pulled up alongside us. It was the two girls again, and just as I caught the evil gleam in their eyes, the long, slender flash of cold steel descended

on my partner's right leg. As the switchblade penetrated his trousers just above the knee, the other woman snatched the watch off his wrist. The driver braked abruptly, then darted off down a side alley.

I remember bringing my hands up to keep the blood out of my eyes as it spurting from my partner's wound. I flinched in preparation for his scream, but it never came.

"Well, what the hell are you waiting for?" he yelled. "Let's get them whores!"

"Let's get them whores!"

I jammed all my weight down on the brakes, forced the jeep into reverse, and backed up to the alley. After hitting the red lights and siren, I reached down under the seat for the first-aid kit, but he had already emptied an M-16 bandolier of its magazines and was wrapping it around his leg.

The chase proceeded through a maze of dilapidated tenements and ended suddenly at the intersection of Nguyen Hue and Le Loi when we caught up with the Honda, abandoned on its side at the entrance to another alley.

"You want an ambulance?" I asked, picking up the microphone, but it was obvious my partner was all psyched up to play hero. He drew his pistol, then slowly dismounted from the jeep, carefully testing his right leg as it touched solid ground. He grimaced as he realized the knife had sliced deep into the muscle, but he brought out the other leg and started down the alley.

"You take that side," he directed, pointing at the far side of the lane.

We hadn't gotten a dozen feet, when a large trash can, filled with bricks, crashed down on him. Except for the noise that echoed up and down the alley, it was all over in a couple of seconds. Somehow he had managed to duck under the nearest doorway, but a few bricks had found their mark.

After the dust settled, I found him squatting up against the door, a dazed look on his face. His left shoulder was completely soaked with blood and my stomach turned slightly when I located a piece of bone protruding from where a brick had fractured his shoulder bone.

"I'm gonna get you an ambulance!" I said, turning to run back to the jeep. He grabbed my shirt and jerked me to the ground.

"What you better *get* are those broads!" he corrected me. "They're making us look bad!" His words hit me between the eyes, but he continued to stare down at the dirt.

I spent nearly an hour searching the area, without result. When I returned to my partner, two Vietnamese policemen were lifting him into an ambulance. He managed a smile after I apologized for losing our suspects.

"I better get a fuckin' purple heart outta this!" he said.

"You know they don't give purple hearts to MPs," I joked.

"Why couldn't this have happened six months ago? I could've used the R&R."

I walked back to the Honda we had chased and took down the plates, then ran a check with the local police: it had been stolen from a traffic cop two days earlier while he was on his coffee break.

The following evening found me chauffeur to a 30-year-old buck sergeant from Mobile, Ala. As I sat behind the steering wheel trying to bring my log up to date, my new partner leaned across our jeep's hood and unleashed a torrent of juicy compliments at two "ladies of questionable virtue" who stood on the corner of Yen Do Street, advertising their trade with long smooth legs and heavy make-up.

"You souvenir me Saigon tea, MP?" one of the girls asked.

"Attention, all units!" blared the radio unexpectedly. "C.I.D. agents requesting assistance code 3 at the Lotus traffic circle!" C.I.D. usually meant narcotics, and as I revved up the jeep's engine, my partner reached out and grabbed one of the hookers and planted a wet kiss on her.

He dropped back into his seat and yelled, "I'm afraid action calls, ladies!" He raised his hand in a clenched fist and stared straight ahead as I eased our vehicle into traffic and turned on the red lights and siren.

The roar of exhaust pipes and a thousand horns mingled with the sweet smell of boiling noodles and fresh shrimp as we coasted down into the heart of Cholon. Headlights began to blink on and the smog became a deeper grey.

The scene in front of the Artistic Hand massage parlor was mass confusion. Vietnamese policemen and Americans in civilian clothes were running around with hand-held radios, and MP jeeps arrived and left in twos and threes as we pulled to the curb.

"You're too late," muttered one of the agents as he leaned against our jeep to catch his breath. Barely visible under flabby eyelids and heavy brows, his green eyes darted suspiciously back and forth at the many shaded windows across the street. I half expected James Bond to cruise by in a black sedan.

Dope down the gutter.

"We botched it!" he continued. "A huge dope deal down the gutter!" More units were arriving as he explained how a combined effort between the national police and the D.E.A. to trap a group of American civilians had failed.

"They've been shipping it out by boat to contacts in Pattaya, Thailand. From there who knows where it goes."

"I thought the grade was richer in Thailand," said my partner, referring to

the fine white powder. "You'd think it would be the other way around."

"Something about it being easier to smuggle out of Saigon," he explained. "But it's not the 'H' we were concerned with so much. We want to nail those round-eyes! Something spooked them or they were tipped off tonight and they never showed." The agent would not elaborate and was soon called back into the massage parlor by investigators.

"Let's get out of here," said my partner. "This narcotics junk sucks. I don't want any part of it."

As we cruised along Nguyen Van Thoi a few minutes later, I almost ran the jeep into a light pole while straining to get a better look at the face of an American woman running down a narrow sidewalk.

"What are you — crazy?" began my partner, exaggerating his southern accent.

Sindy from Colorado.

"I know that chick from somewhere!" I answered, pulling the jeep up to the curb and slowing down. The deep tan and long brown hair were out of place, but the face was vaguely familiar.

"You better cool it," he smiled as I cruised along beside her at 10 mph. "She's probably some officer's wife. You wanna get us sent out to Danang?"

"Sindy!" I called out to her. "Is that you?" At first she seemed taken aback by the MP jeep and our black helmets, but then she slowed to a walk and stopped.

"Do I know you?" she asked, hesitating, and then she remembered those high school days and the parties down by the Arkansas River, and she called me by name.

"What the hell are you doing in Vietnam?" I laughed.

She explained she was a volunteer at an orphanage downtown. She was trying to "find herself" by leaving home and had gone to Jakarta, then Bangkok, and finally Saigon.

"Whatcha got in the package?" laughed my partner, pointing at the parcel that dangled from her left hand, "Some mara-hoochie maybe?" Grinning from ear to ear, he calculated the street value of so much pot.

"Yeah, she's probably the one who's been driving the C.I.D. agents crazy," I joked. Then the radio directed us to a traffic accident outside the MACV annex and we had to leave. We agreed to meet at the Caravelle later that night after I got a break to talk about the good old days in the Rocky Mountains.

Soon it was dark. The shops along Le Van Duet were crowded at this time of night. Dusk followed a wave of rolling heat, and one could almost make out the stars beyond the glare of sparkling flares that hung above the edges of Saigon.

As we sat in our jeep beside a sidewalk vendor, checking bottles of Coke under flashlight beams for any alien particles, an



American sailor approached us and asked for directions to the harbor. He was barely 18 with a crew-cut that had not yet grown out, and he shook nervously as he explained his ship was leaving within the hour, and he was lost.

After telling him the key phrase to use, I directed him to a taxi stand across the street. As I watched him dash through heavy traffic, a three-wheeled cyclo, carrying two GIs in the small front passenger compartment, raced noisily up the boulevard on a collision course with the young seaman. I tapped my partner on the shoulder and we watched helplessly as the cyclo knocked the sailor to the ground, then proceeded to flee the scene.

Jaws dropping in slow motion, we stared at each other in shock and pointed at the escaping trio.

"Hot-damn!" my partner finally yelled, breaking the spell. "Go get 'em, boy!"

We easily caught up to the cyclo within a couple blocks, but the old Vietnamese man in an oversized conical straw hat was determined to elude us, even though his top speed was barely 25 mph. His two passengers strained to look back and keep their balance, but the driver kept his foot floored and never once checked our progress.





TOP: Charred remains of Buddhist monk after flaming suicide on downtown Saigon street. Note empty gas container near body.

LEFT: East meets West. Saigon street-scene mixes high-power wires with street vendors and delivery trucks.

RIGHT: MP frisking theft suspect during last days of black-market activity.



forehead as if offering one last chant to his Buddha. Then the flames consumed him and his body toppled onto its side.

The crowd gasped, but the policemen made no effort to extinguish the flames, and as a small group of Japanese tourists clicked away with cameras, two old women appeared and covered the monk with a blanket in an attempt to smother the fire. I thought back to the half dozen such suicides I had witnessed since being assigned to the 18th Military Police Brigade, and marveled at this priest's power of self-control. In all the other cases, the subject had thrashed about on the ground after igniting himself, yet this man sat rigid and frozen until heat or pain overcame his balance and sent him to the earth.

Someone summoned an ambulance, and as it pulled up to the scene, one of the Cahn Sats picked up the empty gasoline can and examined it. I walked over to him and started a conversation, but he only smiled and motioned for a cigarette with his fingers. He could not speak English, and after making a miserable attempt at complimenting him on his service revolver, I started back up the hill to check on my partner.

"You should have been there!" he was telling a second MP patrol that had arrived on the scene. "It was like a scene from a Joseph Wambaugh flick; here I was chasing these two jerks in and out of traffic...."

I grinned at one of the privates as his eyeballs rolled skyward, and radioed headquarters to see if any calls were pending. The desk sergeant at Pershing Field responded impatiently: more than a dozen bar fights were in progress.

And the night was still young.

"The narcs finally made it."

Just after sunrise, we straggled into camp and headed to the mess hall for a cup of coffee. Across the street, a cluster of C.I.D. agents were leading three American civilians into the jailhouse. They all wore handcuffs behind their backs, and one was a woman.

I wandered over to where the Captain was lifting weights, and made an effort at casual conversation. "Looks like the narcs finally made the big dope deal," I said, referring to the three prisoners.

"Yeah," he replied, straining against the 100-pound barbells. "Bought over \$1,000 worth of heroin from them at the Artistic Hand massage parlor." He dropped the weights heavily in the dirt as I turned toward the growing line outside the mess hall. "And one of them was asking for you personally."

I stopped dead in my tracks and turned back to him.

"Some hooker named Sindy. Says you were good friends from way back...."

toward the main gates of the Presidential Palace, with my partner in foot pursuit.

"Stay with the mad hatter!" he instructed. Somehow the cyclo driver weaved through the check-point and proceeded east along Cong Ly. I slowed long enough for a Vietnamese policeman to hop aboard, and we were soon on the cyclo's tail again.

As we approached Le Loi Boulevard, a Honda sputtered past us on the left, and two more policemen pulled up alongside the mad hatter and placed a six-inch Smith & Wesson .357 magnum into his ear. The cyclo skidded to a halt and the old papa-san proceeded to bow for forgiveness and recite the names of his 27 grandchildren.

"Did you remember to load your gun?"

I inspected the passenger compartment of the cyclo and found more than three dozen cartons of American cigarettes in a duffel bag, probably on their way to the black market. As I began the necessary paperwork, the policemen started laughing, and I looked up to see my partner, his pants un-bloused and shirt ripped down the middle, leading the two GIs down the street towards us at gun point. The prisoners' right hands were handcuffed together, forcing one of them to walk backwards as they stumbled along.

"What the hell you smiling at?" my partner coughed, out of breath.

"Oh, I was just wondering if you remembered to load your gun today," I answered.

A group of school children, still in their blue uniforms at this late hour, ran up to one of the Vietnamese policemen and began speaking rapidly. They pointed down the block to a street corner and a growing crowd. Two of the Cahn Sats were instructed to check into the disturbance, and I followed them to where a small wisp of smoke hung above the crowd.

In the street sat a middle-aged man, his head shaven and his orange robe in flames, hands clasped in front of his

"Stop the mad hatter!"

My partner was on his feet now, holding onto the windshield and waving his pistol in the air like some raving general. "Step it up! Step it up!" he was shouting. "We must not let the mad hatter escape!"

"We are now northbound on Tran Qui Cap!" I told the dispatcher over the radio. As we approached Cong Ly, traffic funneled down into a police check-point and came to a dead stop. The two servicemen jumped out of the cyclo, running



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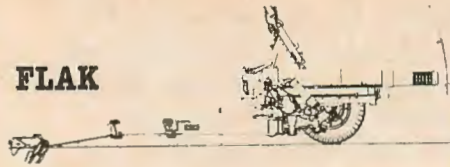


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FLAK



Continued from page 17

organization, not too inaccurately we think, as being run by "a collection of communists and cannibals." SOF zeroed in on its PLO involvement (see "Terror in Beirut: An Inside Look at the PLO," Winter '77).—The Eds.

**EXPERTS AT
ARMS ...**

Sirs:

Perhaps other readers were as amused as I at the head-on clash between Chuck Taylor and Ken Hackathorn ("Full Auto" and "Test Your Skill with a SMG," SOF, February '79), but I was really stunned at the lack of comment or qualification by the publisher/editor concerning their views.

I really expected better and hoped to read about the duel in the next issue. At a minimum I expected to hear that someone had been fraggd. A possible explanation is that neither reads the other's material.

Continued on page 74

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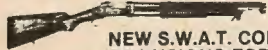
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EL SALVADOR: The Next Domino

SOF Staffer

Eye-witness Report

by Mike Williams



Photo: Courtesy UPI

MAJOR, has your government gone completely communist?" The man sitting across the table from me shook his head in disgust and pointed to the morning paper's headlines — "U.S. Halts Aid to El Salvador." The insignia of rank on his collar marked him as a high official in the Salvadorean army.

"Sir, I wish I could offer a plausible explanation for that, but I can't." As an admirer and friend of the U.S., his previous contacts with Americans had come from attendance at company and field grade officers' courses — Ft. Benning, Ft. Leavenworth, and Carlisle Barracks. His admiration was now replaced by a growing feeling of betrayal.

I'd seen the expression, earlier in the year, on the face of General Somoza's senior aide during talks with him in Managua just prior to the fall of the Nicaraguan government to Castro-backed Sandinista Marxists.

When I arrived in San Salvador, the capital, in late 1979, the resignation of President Romero was imminent; leftist partisans and urban guerrillas were increasing pressure daily against government troops. Several public buildings had been seized and hostages held. In an effort to maintain order, General Romero attempted to deal with the Marxists by negotiating rather than using troops. That tactic had, predictably, failed and shortly thereafter he felt the country for exile in the United States.

"You're aware of what started all this?" the officer asked.

"No, but I'd guess it's a direct result of what's happened in Nicaragua."

"Just before you arrived here, we had a visitor from Washington — a Mr. Vaky, the Deputy Undersecretary of State under Vance. He held a series of secret talks with General Romero — said he brought orders direct from Carter." The Salvadorean's face flushed with anger. "The directions from Carter were that we would hold immediate elections, that all army officers occupying posts in the government resign, and that 'moderates' be given the opportunity to run the country," he said, biting off the end of a cigar and spitting it out the window. "Do you know who the 'moderates' are?"

I shook my head. He ticked them off on his fingers: "The BPR, Revolutionary Party Bloc — they're a Marxist-Leninist coalition; the FAPU, made up of students, workers and farmers, and the FSLN, the Sandinista Front for Liberation of Nicaragua."

"Sounds like something out of the *Daily Worker* or *Pravda*," I replied.

"You bet your ass — they're all communists!" he said, as a sergeant brought in a tray with a coffee pot and two cups, placed it on the table and snapped to attention. My host waved him away. "We have discipline in our army, major, that we haven't lost yet.

"After Vaky finished the talks he went straight to the liberal press and leaked the details of Carter's demands. Every Marxist bastard in this country jumped for joy." He turned to his desk and handed me a newspaper clipping.

"How do you explain that to the people here?" The clipping bore a photo of Jimmy Carter shaking hands with the head of the Sandinista government, while two other members of the Marxist regime beamed from the background. The venue was the White House rose garden and the accompanying copy revealed Carter's promise of \$85 million in aid and instructors from the U.S. Army to help train the Sandinistas' rag-tag bob-tailed troops!

"When you go back to the States you might also tell the people that Carter has placed an arms embargo on us — we can't even buy goddamn pistols! The last example of Carter's true sympathies lies in the shoot-out yesterday in front of the Presidential Palace," he said.

The previous afternoon's paper carried the story together with pictures of the three casualties. William Hom, Moises Edgardo Magana and Edwin Oswaldo Mendoz were riding in a rented vehicle that was closely following another civilian car. When the lead vehicle drew abreast of the security detail guarding the palace entrance, its occupants opened fire with automatic weapons. In the return fire, all occupants of both cars were killed in the area called *El Cuartel Zapote*.

Of more than passing interest to government intelligence circles was the fact that all three occupants of the rental car had been identified as the same men who had passed the palace on previous occasions, taking pictures of the security detail's positions. All three were from the San Francisco area of California and William Hom, the only American of the three, owned the Golden State Realty Company and a mortgage firm. Magana and Mendoz were long-time residents of California but had never applied for citizenship nor had they ever made any effort to bring their families to San Francisco from El Salvador.

Several stories were spread concerning the relationships between the three, the most recent being that Hom had arrived in San Salvador to look at real estate and was going to finance the two Salvadoreans in a business venture. Why this — inasmuch as all three men lived and worked in San Francisco's Bay area?

On the same day as the killings in front of *El Cuartel Zapote*, three other Salvadoreans were killed in a hand grenade explosion that totaled the cab of the truck in which they were riding. In the rear of the truck (license number P-23-753) security forces found a large number of ammo boxes containing .30- and .50-caliber rounds. Weapons in the cache included two 9mm pistols, a Thompson SMG, a 12-gauge shotgun, numerous hand grenades and demolition equipment.

The MERS (Student Revolutionary Movement) and the FPL (Popular Revolutionary Front) both had activists in the area at the time of the incident.

To the members of the "bleeding heart" liberal community who will scream "military brutality" in the case of the American and two Salvadoreans, I would point out the following: in a situation as explosive as the one existing in San Salvador, it is sheer lunacy to drive repeatedly past a highly sensitive area, taking pictures of military personnel, and closely following another civilian vehicle.

Although my Spanish is idiomatic, I stayed the hell away from the Presidential Palace and *El Cuartel Zapote* unless my route past there was absolutely necessary.

General Romero is gone from El Salvador. His government was anti-communist and pro-Western, as was General Somoza's.

Carter supports Marxists.

There is no element of either chance or coincidence in the fall of Nicaragua and El Salvador. The Carter administration has shown from the betrayal of Taiwan that it will co-operate actively with Marxists — be they Chinese, Cuban or Nicaraguan — to any degree necessary to avoid a head-to-head confrontation with the Soviet Union, which terrifies Carter.

Panama is Marxist. A continual stream of visiting "firemen" from Cuba and Nicaragua passes from the Canal Zone to Costa Rica — now the staging ground for future Castro assaults against Honduras and Guatemala, the only remaining anti-Castro countries in Central America.

The Soviet Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, employs 85 full-time workers, most of whom are KGB. The Rumanian — that's right, Virginia, Rumanian — Embassy has 46 employees and the Cuban Embassy has more than 100.

On the first day after the Sandinista take-over of Managua, a Cubana de Avia-cion jet hauled the heads of the new Marxist government off for a flying visit to Havana — and Fidel. The American Consul to El Salvador stood by, wringing his hands and reminding them of Carter's \$85 million offer.

If El Salvador's shaky coalition government collapses and the communists take over — a likely situation given the present circumstances — Honduras and Guatemala haven't a prayer.

Even with tragedy unfolding daily, the Salvadoreans have a sense of humor. Their nickname for Jimmy Carter is *La Mujer Bionica* — The Bionic Woman — All that power and no balls!

I'm sure the Ayatullah Khomeini would agree.



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FLAK



Continued from page 70

As for editorial supervision, this performance indicates either that the place is run like a dead-letter drop or is closely modeled after the regular army.

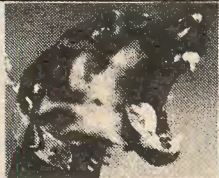
Still, both men are to be congratulated for their efforts in developing tactical doctrine and training procedures in the use of the SMG. Their final work product should be readily adaptable to the shotgun.

Very truly yours,
Robert B. Laseter, Jr.
Jacksonville, Florida

It would be surprising if SOF procedures in the past had not been closely modeled after the regular army, since virtually everyone on the staff formerly followed that occupation. However, with the addition of a former Marine in the form of a managing editor, we expect that the magazine henceforth will display all the efficiency for which that organization is famous.

In this case, however, army practices are not to be blamed. SOF editors were delighted that the two authors in question had differing viewpoints on the MAC-10, decided to let both have free rein and ran the columns in the same issue without comment — in hopes that this would produce such excellent letters to the editor as yours. — The Eds.

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7-11 FIRES FOR EFFECT ...

Sirs:

I recently read a newspaper report that described a convenience store clerk being fired from his job after shooting and critically wounding a man during an early morning robbery attempt for \$31. William Fischer fired the shot after the man slashed him with a pair of scissors.

Doug Porter, division manager of 7-11 Stores, declared company employees are instructed not to have weapons in the stores at any time and that the company "deeply regrets" the shooting of Adelfio Lujan, reported in critical condition at Denver General Hospital.

Fischer declared it was the second time in two months that he had been threatened with a weapon during a robbery attempt at the store.

I believe somebody should give Fischer a certificate of appreciation and a scholarship to Gunsite so the next time the robber would be planted instead of lying in the hospital soaking up taxpayers' dollars. Porter and 7-11 should get a Neville Chamberlain doll and no more business.

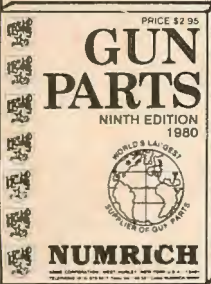
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Well-done to Bill Fischer who will get a

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UNITED
WE STAND ...

Sirs:

I read the letter by Marine Pvt. Chuck Mellette (June '79, p. 8), who said you can enlist for Ranger School, Special Forces, or SEAL training but to get Marine Force Recon one must be paneled. Well, that upset Sgt. John C. Delavan (Aug. '79, p. 8), who said to enter Ranger school, one must have completed both MOS training and airborne, and one cannot enlist for either Rangers, Special Forces, or SEALs. Then SSG T.C. E. from Georgia (Oct. '79, p. 10) said one can enlist in Rangers or join them from a regular Army line unit.

Well, I wish all these people would stop arguing and work together. It takes special men to get in these units, whichever branch of the service, and these special men and units are what makes the United States second to none.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Ullrich
San Antonio, Texas

Right on, Elizabeth. Thanks for your cogent comments.—The Eds.



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Quietly, the Far Left—dissatisfied with the Prince of Peanuts—is pushing Prince Charming of Chappaquiddick. This 2x3 black-and-yellow poster graphically reminds people of those long-ago events surrounding the senior Senator from Massachusetts, who panicked in his car, but who now would like to have his finger on the buttons in the White House. Destined to be a collector's item, this poster is ideal for display between now and the 1980 elections—especially wherever voters congregate (offices, gas stations, stores, meeting halls, lodges, truck stops, your own den or family room . . . or near the deep end of your swimming pool).

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BULLETIN BOARD

Continued from page 18

RADIO CUBA LIBERTAD . . .

A clandestine radio station is now operating three days a week in Cuba.

David, the one speaker on *Radio Cuba Libertad* (Free Cuba Radio), is advocating sabotage and has had so much impact that the Cuban government has been forced to build a wall around the "special store" that is open only to Cubans of rank and foreign diplomats.

There are other signs of discontent in Fidel's fiefdom. Two of his African-experienced troops, who defected to the U.S. recently, report that a lack of jobs for returning troops is causing strife in the ranks.

Some time back the Cuban government quit bringing home its dead — it buries them where they fall — and reports indicate serious casualties are being treated in eastern Europe.

Still there are enough legless and armless veterans on Cuban streets to give some soldiers and some civilians second thoughts.

BOGUS BENEFITS FOR VETERANS . . .

A reader brought to our attention, and it was confirmed by the Veterans Administration, that the GI insurance dividend hoax is still around.

The official-looking dividend application forms, complete with an address where they are to be mailed, mysteriously appear in various parts of the country almost every year and are reprinted into news stories in publications put out by unions, company personnel offices and some veterans' publications.

The forms usually state Congress has passed a bill which will pay every GI from WWII a dividend regardless of whether or not they still carry their GI insurance.

That is a hoax. The VA did pay a special dividend in 1950 and 1951 but that expired in 1970. The VA also pays an annual dividend on policies in force but no application is necessary.

The hoax results in some 200 to 400 letters a day going into the Philadelphia VA center and the most taxpayers is staggering.

So if you get a form — don't send it in.

GEORGIA PISTOL ASSOCIATION FORMING . . .

D. Noel Cook, 1806 Normandee Lane, Albany, GA 31707, (912) 439-1790, would like to contact persons who are interested in joining the Georgia Practical Pistol Association which is now forming. The GPPA will seek affiliation with the International Practical Shooting Confederation.

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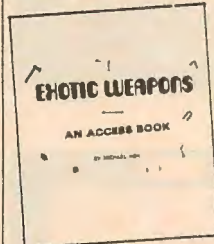
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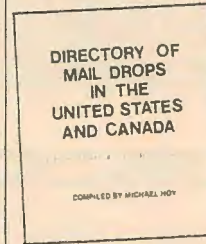
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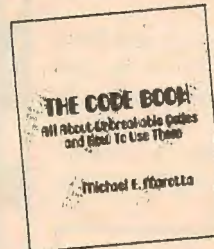
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VIETS MAY BE USING GAS IN LAOS ...

A Defense Department medical team, which interviewed Lao refugees in Thailand, believes poison gas has been used against hill tribes in Laos.

The team's preliminary report said medical symptoms described by Mhong tribesmen, who fought under CIA direction against the communists in the 1960s and 1970s, indicates at least two or possibly three gases have been used. Tribesmen claim whole villages were wiped out and that as many as 700 to 1,000 have been killed.

The implication of the report was that the gases — possibly a type of nerve gas — are too sophisticated to have been made in Indochina and were probably supplied by the Soviet Union.

'VACATION CAMPS' IN CUBA ...

Columnist William Safire reports Angolan guerrilla leader Dr. Jonas Savimbi charges some 6,000 children have been taken from Africa since 1977 and sent to Cuban "vacation camps."

The 30,000 Cubans occupying the former Portuguese colony of Angola have forcibly shipped the African children off for indoctrination that will last from 10 to 15 years.

Savimbi claims the children are held on the isolated Island of Pines off Cuba's southwest coast. There they are introduced to life in a communist society. Savimbi says the purpose is to enable the communists to dominate "the next generation of Angolans with Cuban-brainwashed youth."

The Cuban puppet regime in Luanda calls it a "scholarship program."

Savimbi, who, according to Safire, has been ignored by the State Department on his latest U.S. visit, is reported to be in control of the countryside in Angola.

Safire says, "The remnants of the Andy Young brigade in the Carter administration" don't like Savimbi because he accepted some arms from South Africa a few years back and even worse, rifles and ammo from the CIA.

"That makes him more intolerable, in Carter eyes, than the Cuban mercenaries running Angola for the Soviet Union," wrote Safire.

A BIT OF A BAR GAFFLE ...

Because the New Zealand police permit authorizing their import indicated that the 15 rifles in the box were self-loading, New Zealand customs officers allowed the consignment through.

But the self-loading rifles, complete with bipods, swiftly snapped up over the counter of a sports store, turned out to be Browning Automatic Rifles.

Continued on page 84



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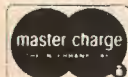
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Continued from page 52

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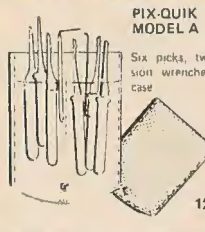
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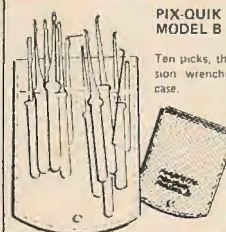
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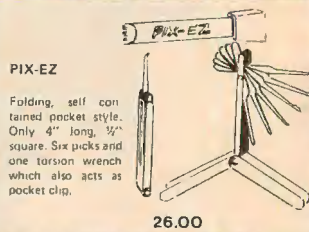
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Text & Photos by Jim Shults & Eugene A. Barron

THE GARAND IS BACK

Springfield Armory's New M1

Old-timers will recognize the three basic groups of M1. Note length of op rod spring.



SOF Advertising Director Shults found Garand a pleasure to shoot in off-hand position due to forward balance.

BELOW: The Garand has its unique way of telling you it's empty. Ejected shell and empty clip fly in the air. BOTTOM: Three rifles manufactured by Springfield. Top 7.62, middle 30-06, bottom 25-06 with military surplus detachable scope mount. Rear sight knob is removed for scope clearance.



Jim Shults is SOF's Advertising Director. For the past several years, Jim has written articles for SOF under the pen name of Robert Sundance. We felt it was time to break Jim's cover. Jim is a high-power rifle competitor and dabbles from time to time in local combat pistol matches. Jim won sharpshooter class at the NRA National Championships 1979 at Camp Perry and holds the Distinguished Rifleman award. —R.K. Brown



THE Garand is back. That's right, a new M1 Garand rifle is in production. This "new" rifle will be marketed by Springfield Armory of Geneseo, Ill. The same folks that brought back the M14 (M1A) now offer its older brother.

While at Camp Perry this summer, I saw one of the early Garands in 30-06 caliber at the Springfield display. I asked if it (serial No. 429) could be sent to me for testing. Not only did it arrive, but so also did an experimental M1 Garand with a heavy barrel, serial No. T-3 (for Test) in 7.62 cal.

Furthermore, I received Bob Reese's (The Big Boss) personal Garand with scope in 25-06 caliber. Springfield supplied more than 1,000 rounds of national match ammo dating from 1959 to 1967. I traded around and got some older and newer ammo, which gave a variety for testing tracer and armor-piercing as well as current NM rounds.

Appearance of the rifles is excellent. Even though I own an M1A for match use, I feel the Garand is a more attractive piece. Workmanship is excellent and gives a fine standard for Springfield to follow. With the exception of the 25-06, neither of the two national match rifles was fired. They were brand new!

Rifles I was most interested in evaluating were the 7.62 heavy-barrel NM and the 30-06 Garand. I will give some data on the 25-06, although I didn't fire it that much — only 50 rounds.

I tested both the 30 cal. rifles from a sandbag rest only. They were fired in 60- to 75-degree weather with a three to five-mile-per-hour cross wind at ranges of 100, 200 and 300 yards. I cleaned neither rifle during the complete test period and fired each more than 500 times. I permitted no barrel cooling during any shot group and fired shots within 20 seconds of each other. I fired no warm-up shots and tested both weapons with iron sights only. I personally did the group shooting and let several other shooters bust beer cans or whatever to get their impressions.

Group tests were fired at the American Sportsman's Range just outside Broomfield, Colo.

To say I was shocked, is an understatement. The 30-06 fired the first time out a five-shot best group of 5/16 inch at 100 yards! The normal eight-shot grouping was 1/2 to 3/4 inch. At 200 yards it consistently went 1-1/8 inches to 1 1/2 inches for eight-shot groups (one clip of ammo). At 300 yards it spread to a fantastic 2 1/4 to 2 1/2 inches for eight shots.

I know it could shoot tighter, but my eyes aren't that good with iron sights.

The 7.62 Garand isn't as tough but still exceeds military requirements. Groups averaged 1 1/2 inches at 100 yards, 2 1/2 inches at 200 yards and 4 1/4 inches at 300 yards. The 25-06 using 120-gr. Remington Peters ammo gave a rather disappointing 2 1/4 inches at 100 yards and I did not fire it at longer ranges. I suspect the scope was

loose but there wasn't a rear iron sight on the rifle and I didn't want to rob one from the other rifles.

None of these groups were flukes, since I fired dozens of them.

I did not experience a single malfunction with the 30 cal. Garands. The 25-06 gas port isn't large enough and it refused 100 percent normal operation.



Method used to test rifles is not fancy but works. Note ejected, empty clip.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY 30-06 GARAND NM ORIGINAL

AMMO TYPE	AVERAGE GROUP SIZE		
	100 yds.	200 yds.	300 yds.
1952 ball	3 in.	5 in.	6 1/2 in.
1954 armor-piercing	4 1/2 in.	not fired	not fired
1959 NM	1 1/4 in.	2 in.	4 in.
1962 NM	5/8 in.	1 1/4 in.	2 1/4 in.
1966 NM	1 1/2 in.	1 1/2 in.	3 1/4 in.
1967 NM	1 1/2 in.	1 1/2 in.	3 1/2 in.
Rem. Peters 150-Gr.	2 in.	4 1/2 in.	4 1/2 in.

7.62 (.308) GARAND NM HEAVY BARREL

AMMO TYPE	AVERAGE GROUP SIZE		
	100 yds.	200 yds.	300 yds.
1965 NM	1 1/4 in.	2 1/2 in.	5 1/2 in.
Various tracer	5 1/2 in.	not fired	not fired
*1972 Lupua 172-gr.	2 1/2 in.	3 1/2 in.	5 in.
*1972/Sierra 168-gr.	2 1/2 in.	4 1/4 in.	4 1/4 in.
Federal lot R-2			
Match	1-7/16 in.	3 in.	4 in.
1977 NM	2 1/2 in.	3 in.	5 in.
**"Mexican Match." U.S. Nat. Match ammo with a commercial match bullet.			

I have never been a lover of the Garand, since I prefer my old army-era rifle, the M14. I will tell you this, though; I gained a tremendous amount of respect for the Garand. I can see why "oldtimers" love it. I do now.

I let anybody that wanted to fire these rifles do so and I especially encouraged people to try them who had never fired a Garand before. From a 14-year-old boy to a 60-year-old man, the smiles of satisfaction and appreciation were unmistakable. These rifles are a ball.

Garands are heavier at the muzzle, which helps in off-hand holding characteristics. I appreciated the better balance and cut my off-hand M14 groups in half when compared to the Garand. This additional muzzle weight does add to their slightly clumsy feeling when one tries to point them in a hurry.

During rapid fire I wasn't as fast reloading the Garand as my M1A, due to its reputation as a thumb smasher. This can be resolved with practice.

I also tried these rifles with a Springfield Armory bipod. It opened up groups to twice their original size or larger. A uniform amount of pressure is required to shoot a round group and prevent a vertical strong group. However, this bipod is an excellent one for bipod lovers and the price is right.

Springfield Armory will make the new receivers and they will be cast, as are present M1A receivers. The firm has enough military components to make 5,000 NM rifles. The buyer can pick from a standard-issue Garand at \$475, NM Garand with a commercial, newly manufactured heavy barrel at \$600 to a NM original Garand with military NM barrel at \$675. The 30-06 I tested had the original barrel and the 7.62 had the heavy commercial barrel. Stocks will be either walnut or birch. All the NM rifles will be glass-bedded and assembled by a retired Army armorer.

I was so impressed with the 30-06's performance that I asked Editor/Publisher Bob Brown to buy it for the magazine — he did.

I can honestly say I have never in my life fired a rifle that shot so well with iron sights. It could see some use in 1,000-yard matches next year.

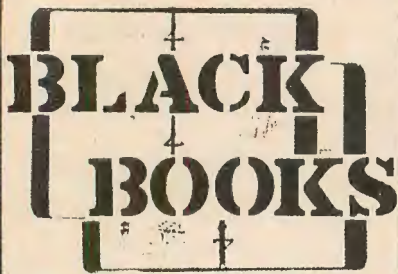
The DCM is making original battle-field-grade Garands available at the rate of 600 per year to qualified high-power competitors for about \$112. However, if one can't wait or doesn't like the 500-to-one odds each year, one should look over the offerings Springfield Armory has.

Be ready for a delay. Springfield really isn't geared to produce them on a volume basis yet. I am sure Tom and Denny Reese haven't got much to do, so if one writes them, he'll get an answer — some day.



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Continued from page 79

The open sale of automatic weapons is banned in New Zealand.

"It was a genuine mistake," commented Inspector B.R. Turnbull, police national firearms coordinator.

Turnbull's troops tracked the weapons down, found them in the hands of reputable collectors and allowed them to keep them, subject to special security precautions. One of the conditions for keeping an automatic rifle is that it be kept under lock and key, and a "vital part" be removed and stored separately. Collectors must also have a special permit from the police.

CASTRO'S NEXT AFRICAN TARGET ...

Reliable sources in Ghana say that the fair elections held last October have done little to repair corruption there and that the country is on the brink of total economic collapse. The government must move fast to prevent wide-spread hunger but Ghana is so close to bankruptcy that foreign help is difficult to obtain. Students are back in the schools but text books and other supplies are not available.

A senior lecturer at Ghana's largest university, Legon, is advocating a Cuban-style revolution. In addition, the Russians have taken advantage of the general unrest to meet with the army, counseled that more executions would help the revolution and even shown films of the Ethiopian effort.

ARMY SEEKS FUNDS FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS ...

The Army has asked for \$19.3 million to begin construction of a \$170 million facility that would produce 155-millimeter artillery shells filled with chemicals.

The shells known as "binary munitions" would contain two non-lethal agents that would combine to produce nerve gas only after they were fired at a target.

Although the Army reportedly has tentative approval to start producing the weapons, the proposal has touched off an intense debate within the Carter administration. Officials are concerned the nerve gas weapons could jeopardize NATO approval for an administration plan to deploy new medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

The Nixon administration dropped biological weapons and cut back on



Rommel, with sand goggles across forehead, became a classic picture of The Desert Fox. The summit of his career was commanding the AFRIKA KORPS in the Libyan Desert.

ERWIN ROMMEL

... wrote a book in 1937 titled *Infanterie Greift An* (Infantry Attacks). A new limited edition (hard back) of *Infantry Attacks* (English Translation) has just been printed and I invite you to take advantage of it.

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Rommel directed the AFRIKA KORPS with such success that, according to the Gallup Poll even the British, up until November 1942, considered him the "ablest commander produced by the war." His repeated victories in desert operations against a succession of British commanders caused him to become the most publicized German general. His book, which up to 1941 had sold only a few thousand copies, went through many editions in Germany. When our Army wanted to know what Rommel had written in 1937, we found it difficult to lay our hands on

Infanterie Greift An, although there were a few stray copies in this country. Through the kindness of the Columbia University Library, Colonel Gustave E. Kidde', USMC, was able to make this translation for the Command & General Staff School. Most of the general tactical lessons taught by these combat narratives are valid today. The observations under which Rommel sums up his reactions to the various engagements are precisely the kind of counsel an American officer would give his troops and junior officers under similar circumstances.

With the memories of Rommel's spectacular campaigns in North Africa still fresh in mind, present-day readers of *Infantry Attacks* will see many parallels between Rommel's experiences and methods in use today.

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stocks of chemical weapons in 1969. Intelligence reports disclose that the Soviet Union has increased and modernized its chemical inventory of nerve gas since 1973.

SOUTH AFRICAN ENCOUNTER ...

The Christian League of Southern Africa and the Rhodesian Christian Group publishes an eight-page tabloid newspaper which covers current political events in Southern Africa from a christian point of view. *Encounter* can be obtained for two South African rand (or two pounds U.K.) by writing *Encounter*, P.O. Box 28507, 0132 Sunnyside, Republic of South Africa.

CIVIL WAR TROOPS FOIL RANGER RAID ...

As the 90-man U.S. Army Ranger storming party surged into Savannah's (Ga.) Fort Jackson their forward momentum came to a screeching halt when they were greeted by defenders firing weapons that kicked out 18-foot-long flames.

Army officials had asked Civil War re-enactment soldiers — in town to film a movie — to provide a little "surprise" for the Ranger assault in a hostage simulation exercise.

The Rangers were supposed to swoop down in eight choppers, slip in the door of the fort, knock off the nine Ranger defenders and free the captured pilots.

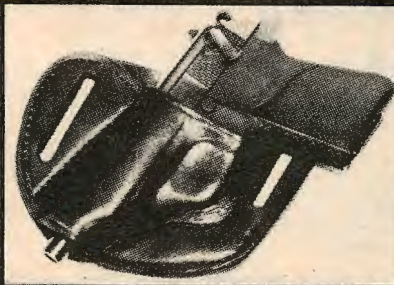
But after going through the door, the Rangers got bogged down in a 30-minute battle with the Civil War buffs.

It all came to an end when a livid Ranger officer stalked over and told them to stop shooting because they were "delaying the takeover of the fort."

The Rangers' defense was that the Civil War troops — from the 1st In-

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**FILE UNDER
FLORIDA STYLE UFO ...**

The Miami *Herald* spotted an intriguing advertisement by Star-Tron International in some Florida and Georgia metro newspaper classified sections announcing, "40 pilots needed immediately for global flight operations."

Applicants were invited to send resumes to "Box 1947, Lake City, FL 32055." In return the applicants got a typed cipher on plain stationery stating that "Operation Night Vision is an airborne global electronic surveillance communique. It operates extremely sophisticated and modern aircraft ... Your training and traveling expenses will be paid in advance ... The company has no need for seconds. We train each person individually ..."

"Each pilot will wear a numbered USAF jump suit while on duty. This is not the military — but be advised — we do run a very, very tight ship."

The letter, signed by a Col. Dan Meyers, also asked for personal data — social security number, passport number, pilot license, languages spoken, clearances — and buried in there, a request for a \$15 "documentation and processing fee." That fee was to be sent by hard-to-trace, easy-to-cash money order and specifically not by special delivery or registered mail.

Which made some Florida pilots suspicious. They alerted the papers and some government agencies.

The Miami *Herald* found no trace of the existence of Star-Tron, Operation Night Vision or Dan Meyers in Florida corporation records, Federal Aviation Administration pilot or aircraft registrations, military personnel records, Florida driver license records or even telephone company listings.

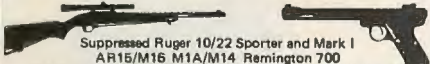
When the CIA was asked if the "this Company" of Star-Tron's cipher was known to them, agency sources chuckled.

The *Herald* tracked down P.O. Box 1947 to one Jeff Greene, Rural Route 1, White Springs, Fla. Greene was unlisted and left no number on his rental form.

U.S. Postal Inspector Roy Spradley of Jacksonville left a note in P.O. Box 1947 and got a call from someone who made an appointment to talk fur-

Continued on page 90

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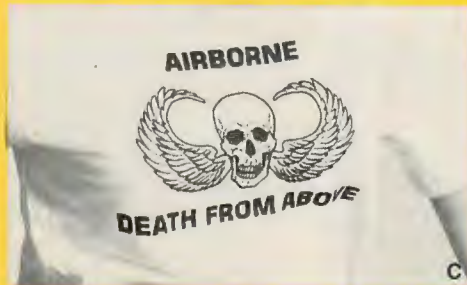
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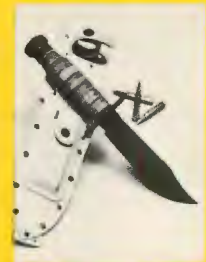
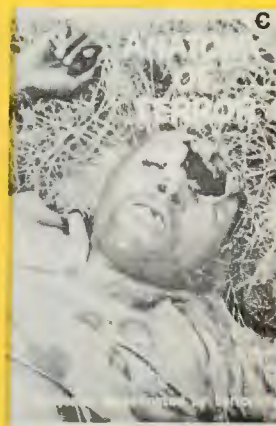
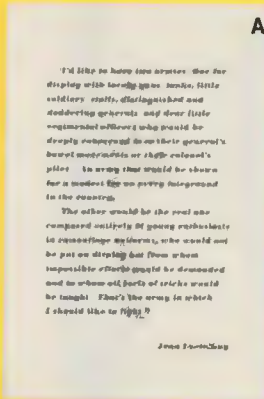
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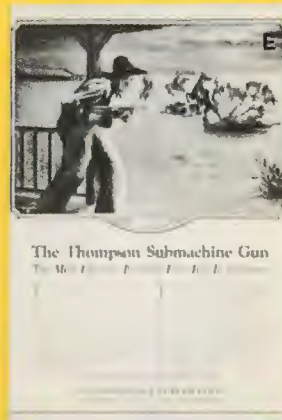
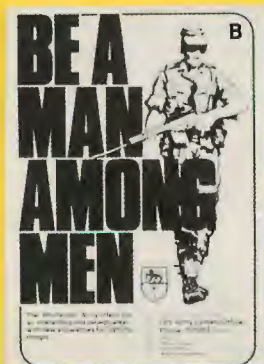
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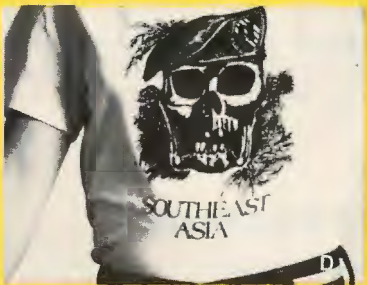
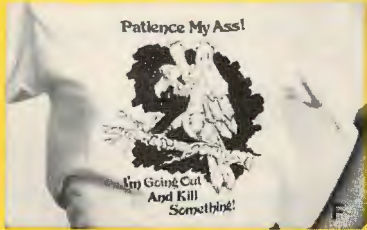
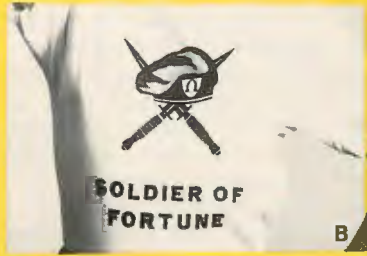


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BULLETIN BOARD

Continued from page 87

ther. No one ever showed and someone quit cleaning out Box 1947.

South Florida applicants who sent in their \$15 were advised that an orientation dinner would be held Oct. 20, at 1900 hours at the Sheraton Inn at Miami International Airport.

At the appointed hour, the *Herald* reporter found at least 20 male pilots at the Sheraton but no representative of Star-Tron.

The pilots, who admitted they sent in \$15, had two theories.

First, Star-Tron could be an ultra-secret organization unknown to government and private intelligence agencies.

Second, there is a slim chance that Star-Tron is a scheme concocted by an as-yet-unknown individual who multiplied \$15 by the number of unemployed pilots in Florida and Georgia and came up with a Florida Style Unidentified Flying Operation.



TERRAIN & SITUATION

Continued from page 14

The holster is a diagonal, with a comfortable, concealable harness capable of almost infinite adjustment. On the off-gun side, a magnetic magazine pouch handles Detonics magazines or standard Colt clips. Currently, my rig has a stainless steel Lacha magazine riding there.

The Detonics is kept in the leather by means of unbelievably precise wet molding and the revolutionary speedbreak snap system. The wet molding is so good that on a holster for the PPK/S, you can read part of the Walther name off the grips in reverse on the leather. The speedbreak is simple and fast. Simply fasten the snaps through the trigger guard to hold the gun in place. When a fast draw is needed, just grab the gunbutt and rip the pistol from the leather. The trigger guard breaks the snap and the gun comes free. When cinched up high under the armpit, the Detonics in the Alessi rig is practically invisible, and .45 caliber oomph is ready at hand instantly but well hidden.

If I sound like a stockholder in Alessi, I'm not. I am a big fan, however. The Alessi folks took a fine idea—the diagonal shoulder rig—and brought it to its logical conclusion. And the Detonics works so well with the system that it is the perfect mating. For more information on the gun, write Detonics Associates, Dept. SOF, 2500 Seattle Tower Bldg., Seattle, WA 89101, U.S.A. To find out about Alessi custom concealment holsters—and you owe it to yourself to find out—write Alessi at Dept. SOF, 2465 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda, NY 14150.




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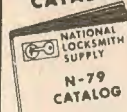
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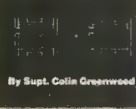
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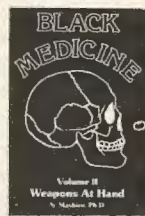


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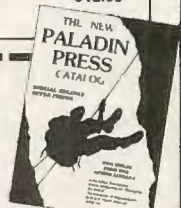
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